

# Common tricky thinking styles



#### **CRITICAL SELF**

## **BLACK AND WHITE** THINKING

## **SHOULDS AND MUSTS**

### **MEMORIES**

Self-criticism, blaming yourself, or putting yourself down.

Is there another way of seeing this? is this something that I am totally responsible for?

Believing that something or someone can only be good or bad, right or wrong. Not acknowledging anything in between - shades of grey.

Is there another way of seeing this?

Thinking or saying 'I should' or 'I must' put pressure on ourselves, and sets up unrealistic expectations.

What would be more realistic? Instead try saying "I could..." or "It would be helpful if I....", how does it feel using that?

Situations can trigger upsetting memories leading us to believe the danger is here and now.

This is just a reminder of the past, that was then, this is now. It is not actually happening right now.

WHAT THINKING STYLES DO YOU NOTICE YOU HAVE USED? IS THERE A MORE BALANCED WAY OF LOOKING AT THE SITUATION?