Example of Distortions in a thought

distortions in the thought, "I'll never get better."

	Distortion	(√)	Explanation
1.	All-or-Nothing Thinking	1	This is a classic example of All-or-Nothing Thinking. You're telling yourself that the therapy either works perfectly or not at all. Shades of gray don't exist.
2.	Overgeneralization	√	You're overgeneralizing from this relapse and concluding that you'll <i>never</i> get better. You think the way you're feeling now will turn into a never-ending pattern of defeat and suffering.
3.	Mental Filter	√	You're focusing on how bad you feel now and ignoring the last three weeks when you were feeling much better.
4.	Discounting the Positive	✓	You are discounting the fact that the therapy was very helpful to you and you did get better.
5.	Jumping to Conclusions Mind-Reading Fortune-Telling	1	You're predicting you'll be depressed forever. (Fortune-Telling)
6.	Magnification or Minimization	1	A relapse is no fun, but you're blowing it way out of proportion.
7.	Emotional Reasoning	1	You're reasoning from how you feel. You're telling yourself that you must be hopeless because you feel hopeless.
8.	Should Statements	√	It's probably a hidden should statement. You're telling yourself that you should never have to feel upset or have any relapses.
9.	Labeling	1	You're labeling yourself as "a hopeless case."
10.	Blame Self-Blame Other-Blame		You're not blaming yourself or anyone else for the relapse.

From Dr. David Burns
Handout compiled by Teresa Kleffner, MSW, LCSW.
St. Louis Counseling and Wellness. www.stlcw.com