# Cognitive Fusion

- Fusion is the process of becoming entangled with one's thoughts, emotions, and beliefs.
- Signs of Fusion:
  - Believing thoughts as facts
  - Acting on thoughts impulsively
  - Persistent rumination
  - Rigid self-labelling



## Cognitive Defusion

- Helps people distance themselves from unhelpful and distressing thoughts.
- Helps people to view thoughts as mental events rather than as facts.
- Help people reduce the emotional impact of their thoughts.
- Helps people be more flexible in seeing different perspectives.



### What Cognitive Defusion is NOT

• NOT meant to determine whether our thoughts are "True" or "False" – we do that with the Thought Record.

 NOT meant to get rid of or distract from unwanted thoughts and emotions – although that may occur.

• NOT meant to invalidate, trivialize, or mock the thoughts we have. If that happens – it is not the technique for you!

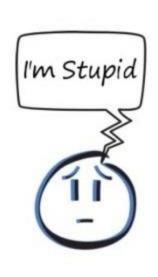
### Silly Voice Technique

- Put your negative self-judgment into a sentence "I am X"
- 2. Fuse with the thought for 10 seconds believe it as much as you can
- 3. Now, silently replay the thought in your mind, but with an inner voice similar to that of a Smurf high pitched, cartoony, and funny.

### Labelling Thought Technique

- Put your negative self-judgment into a sentence "I am X"
- 2. Fuse with the thought for 10 seconds believe it as much as you can
- 3. Now, silently replay the thought with the phrase in front of it "I am having the though that I am X"
- 4. Now replay it one more time, but this time add this phrase "I notice that I am having the thought that I am X"

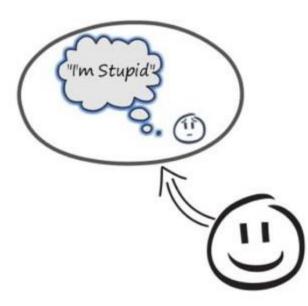
## Labelling Thought Technique



I am Stupid



I'm having the thought
"I'm Stupid"



I'm noticing
I'm having the thought
"I'm Stupid"

- Put your negative self-judgment into a sentence "I am X"
- 2. Fuse with the thought for 10 seconds believe it as much as you can
- 3. Now, in your mind's eye, play around with the formatting change the font, colour, spacing, and how they across the screen of your mind.
- 4. In your mind, image the words bouncing around to the theme of "happy birthday"

IamX

# I am X

I am X

# lamX

I am X







## Dropping Anchor – Grounding Meditation

- Helpful when emotionally overwhelmed, acting impulsively, or dissociating.
- The goal of the practice is to be present, to regain control of your actions, and to engage and focus on what you are doing.
- A Acknowledge your inner experience
  - "Here is sadness, I am noticing anger, I am noticing painful memories"
- C Come back into your body
  - Shift focus into your body and regain a sense of control
  - Alter breathing, stretch, push toes into the floor, push fingers together
- E Engage with the world
  - Expand awareness from inner experience to other things in addition
  - Notice 5 things you see, 3 things you hear, 2 things you feel against your body
  - NOT A DISTRACTION FROM INNER EXPERIENCE but rather an "in addition too"



