
Overthinking

By: Yaima Cabezas
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This behavior is not simply about thinking deeply or caring a great deal about a subject. Overthinking goes beyond that. It is a habit that entangles us, pulling us into microscopic levels of detail that keep us up at night and can lead to anxiety, stress, uncertainty, and fear. In other words, it breeds negativity and often results in frustration.

Thinking is healthy, but overthinking is not. It not only drains our energy, it consumes us and often leads to mistakes. Obsessive thoughts can take us down paths driven by fear, where we imagine harmful outcomes and act with insecurity.

Psychologists explain that this tendency stems from perfectionism and a desire to control everything. Overthinking interferes with our ability to "go with the flow" and allow life to surprise us. It prevents us from building our lives steadily and with confidence.

Fear of failure or rejection, of embarrassment or letting others down, are some of the most common emotional triggers. These fears are often rooted in unresolved traumas and painful past experiences that leave us overly sensitive, guilt-ridden, and prone to exaggerated reactions. Environmental factors can also contribute, particularly in toxic settings where mistakes are unacceptable or spontaneity is stigmatized.

It is essential to understand that it is impossible to control every outcome. We may never have full certainty that a decision is the right one. Mistakes are part of life, and more often than not, we are given chances to start over or, at the very least, reflect and learn. Excessive worry over every consequence and a lack of trust in oneself is unhealthy and paralyzing. Choosing not to act "just in case" is, in fact, the real mistake — what if things go right?

Overthinking is mentally exhausting. It leaves us depleted because we fail to find solutions and instead dissect the past while criticizing a future that has not yet arrived. It becomes speculative. This toxic cycle traps us in a loop of self-persecution that leads nowhere. It often results in sleep disturbances, depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. It may also cause social withdrawal, frustration, mental blocks, procrastination, and even existential crises.

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Since overthinking is not a normal or productive behavior, identifying its root cause is crucial in choosing effective strategies. Can we control the mind? It may seem difficult, but the answer is yes. The first step is distraction. When intrusive, repetitive thoughts begin, we must deliberately switch activities. Engaging in a hobby or a task that keeps us occupied can help.

Our minds cannot focus on more than one line of thought at a time, so staying busy is beneficial. Listening to music, reading, exercising, practicing yoga — whatever sparks interest — can be effective. Expressing thoughts out loud or writing them down also provides release. Sometimes what we carry inside becomes toxic, and letting it out can prevent chronic issues that damage both mental health and social relationships.

In summary, the habit of mentally ruminating, constantly replaying scenarios without taking action, leads nowhere. Overthinking only generates catastrophic thinking, fatigue, headaches, digestive issues, and muscle tension. Psychological therapy is a reliable way to address this issue and foster mental well-being.

Translated by Sergio A. Paneque Díaz / CubaSí Translated Staff
