

## You messages – open or hidden blames

You can copy and cut out these sentences and distribute them to the participants for the exercise.

Sometimes we think we are sending so-called "I" messages, and actually they are disguised "you" messages. They are blames, often coupled with counter-blames.

| Direct You-messages                                        | Hidden You-messages           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I think you could be a little more thoughtful.             | I don't feel taken seriously. |
| You always make such a mess.                               | I feel betrayed.              |
| You always make it so easy for yourself.                   | I feel taken advantage of.    |
| I feel totally hurt because you've been lying to me again. | I feel ridiculed.             |
| You're a pain in the ass.                                  | I feel misjudged              |
|                                                            | I feel abandoned.             |
| I have a feeling you might as well be more careful.        | I feel unloved.               |
| I feel like you can just not be on time.                   | I feel loved.                 |
| You did a beautiful job.                                   | I feel valued.                |
| Why don't you do your own stuff?                           | I feel seen.                  |
| You could say something for once.                          | You're always so great.       |
| You always seem to imagine that it is so simple.           | I feel reassured.             |
| Your hands are all thumbs.                                 | I feel well cared for.        |
| I should have known that.                                  | I feel misunderstood.         |

I feel taken in.

I've said it 10 times already.