| Always keep them laughing so they will not notice that you are inadequate | Always attribute your accomplishments to something other than yourself | I should automatically "get it" | Never challenge yourself too much | Always panic before a test, presentation, performance, or interview |
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| Always share credit with others (even if you did all the work) | Always assume you will fail so you will not be disappointed when you do | Never tell someone you meet in a bar you are an engineering, math or science major | I was admitted or hired because of some kind of mistake | I should be able to do everything myself |
| I should qualify questions or comments by saying things like, "This may not be right, but" | Always assume when people are complimenting you, they are just being nice | Always assume that other people are right | Do not voice your real opinions | Do not tell anyone you feel like an Impostor |
| Always apologize for mistakes or for not knowing something | Do not let people see you studying or working too hard | Always hold back when working in a group or team | Always explain why you do not deserve the compliment | I should succeed at everything I do |
| Never make declarative statements like "I know the answer" | I should feel lucky to have gotten into school, the job, the promotion, etc. | Never let on that you do not know how to do something | Never show up men especially | Eventually people will realize I am underqualified |