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# PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS

Preferred gender pronouns, also known as a PGP, are words used to address or refer to someone. In the English language, pronouns are often used to replace a person's name, but a person's name can also be their PGP (more on that later).

## Why do we need to recognize someone's PGP?

Pronouns are a part of someone's identity. They represent how the person wants to be seen and addressed, so using their preferred gender pronoun shows respect. Remember to ask rather than assume; you can't always tell what a person's PGP is by looking at them. Someone might not feel comfortable sharing or may not be sure how they identify yet, and that's okay. The safest & most respectful thing to do is use their name if you are unsure. When someone is referred to by the wrong PGP, it can be humiliating, frustrating, and oppressive.

## What if I make a mistake?

Mistakes happen! Be respectful and apologize. Then, make a conscious effort to actively use their PGP in the future. Remember, if you are unsure, ask. An easy way to do this is to introduce yourself and say your own PGP first. Example: "Hi, I'm Michele. My pronouns are she/her/hers. What's your name?"

## Can I have some examples?

Sure! Check out the examples on the next page. You may see some pronouns you're not familiar with, or may not see some that you've heard before. That's because the list grows every day, as people discover who they are and what descriptors make them feel comfortable.



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NAME	PGP	EXAMPLE
Drew	he/him/his	Drew is gone. He went to the store.
Joi	she/her/hers	Joi loves writing. Her blog is great.
Alex	they/them/theirs	Alex lent their book to a friend.
Taylor	ze/hir/hirs	Taylor likes TV. Ze watches every day.
Rae	zie/zir/zirs	Rae got zir college acceptance letter.
Mya	Mya	That's Mya's video game. Ask if Mya wants to play.