

What is a gender pronoun?

Gender pronouns are the pronouns that people choose to use for references to themselves. Some gender pronouns are neutral (*them, they, theirs*), some are not (*she, he*), and some have been created as an alternative to or rejection of the gender binary. Everyone has the right to use the gender pronouns that match their personal identity. These pronouns may or may not match their gender expression (how the person dresses, behaves, or looks).

| Gender Pronouns | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|---|
| Subjective | Objective | Possessive | Reflexive | Examples |
| He | Him | His | Himself | He is walking. It belongs to him. The record is his. He bought himself a Coke. |
| She | Her | Hers | Herself | She is walking. It belongs to her. The record is hers. She bought herself a Coke. |
| They | Them | Theirs | Themselves | They are walking. It belongs to them. The record is theirs. They bought themselves a Coke. |
| Ze | Hir/Zir | Hirs/Zirs | Hirself/Zirself | Ze is walking. It belongs to hir. The record is zirs. Ze bought hirself a Coke. |
| Ve | Ver | Vis/Vers | Verself | Ve is walking. It belongs to ver. The record is vers. Ve bought verself a Coke. |

How should I ask someone what their gender pronouns are?

Try asking, "What are your preferred pronouns?" or "Which pronouns do you like to hear?" or "Can you remind me which pronouns you like for yourself?" Doing this may feel awkward at first, but it is not half as awkward as getting it wrong or making a hurtful assumption.

Why is it important to respect a person's gender pronouns?

You can't always know what someone's gender pronouns are by looking at them. Asking about and correctly using someone's gender pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their identity. When someone is referred to with the wrong pronouns, they may feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, or dysphoric.

What do I do if I use the incorrect pronouns?

Apologize, correct yourself and make a conscious effort moving forward! Everyone makes mistakes.