

**USING THE CORRECT PRONOUNS IS A POWERFUL WAY TO RESPECT OTHERS. PRACTISE DIFFERENT PRONOUNS, ASK WHEN YOU'RE UNSURE, AND SUPPORT THOSE AROUND YOU.**

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**WHERE QUEER HOPE & JOY FLOURISHES**

## YOUR GUIDE TO PRONOUNS

**RESPECTING EVERYONE'S IDENTITY**

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET PRONOUNS WRONG

Everyone makes mistakes. If you use the wrong pronouns, it's important to:

Apologise briefly and sincerely: 'I'm sorry.'

Correct yourself: 'I meant to say they.'

Move on with the conversation.

Handling mistakes with grace helps everyone feel respected.

## HOW TO ASK FOR PRONOUNS

It is easy to ask someone for their pronouns and it shows that you care. Try saying:

'What pronouns do you use?'

'Can you remind me of your pronouns?'

'Hi, I'm Alex, and I use they/them pronouns. How about you?'

By asking, you help create a more inclusive environment.

## WHAT IS A PRONOUN?

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun, often used to refer to people without using their names. Pronouns are essential in everyday language as they help us communicate clearly and respectfully.

Pronouns matter because they are a key part of our identities. Using the right pronouns shows respect and recognition. This guide will help you understand pronouns, how to use them, and what to do if you make a mistake.

### COMMON PRONOUNS:

**He/Him/His:**

"He is going to the shop. I saw him yesterday. That book is his."

**She/Her/Hers:**

"She is a great artist. I met her at the event. That painting is hers."

**They/Them/Theirs:**

"They are coming to the party. I spoke to them earlier. That car is theirs."

## LANGUAGE IS EVER-CHANGING:

Language is always evolving, and learning about pronouns isn't about replacing words but expanding our vocabulary. We do this every day as we encounter new terms and expressions. Embracing different pronouns is just another way we can grow and adapt in our use of language.

## USING DIFFERENT PRONOUNS IN DIFFERENT SPACES

Some people use different pronouns depending on the space they are in or who they are with. This might be for personal preference or safety reasons. For example, someone might use he/him at work but they/them with friends. Respecting these choices is crucial.

### NEOPRONOUNS:

**Definition of Neopronoun:**

Neopronouns are a category of newer (neo) pronouns that are used in place of 'he,' 'she,' or 'they.' They can be used by people who don't feel that other pronouns reflect their experience and can help express a person's gender identity in a way that feels right for them.

**Ze/Zir/Zirs:**

"Ze is a writer. I admire zir work. That notebook is zirs."

**Xe/Xem/Xyrs:**

"Xe loves to travel. I asked xem about xyr experiences."

**Fae/Faer/Faerself:**

"Fae is a teacher. I went to faer class. Fae introduced faerself."

## USING MORE THAN ONE PRONOUN

Some people use more than one pronoun, like he/they or she/xe. If someone uses multiple pronouns, alternate between them, or follow any specific instructions they give. This shows respect for their identity.

He/ Him



Dey/ Dem

They/ Them

Ze/ Zir

She/ Her

Xe/ Xem

He/ Him

Fae/ Faer

He/ They

She/ Xe

They/ She