

THE LGBT ABC

LGBT means lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. There are many different terms people use for sexuality and gender and it can get a little confusing.

Also, language changes all the time but here we try to cover a few of the basics. Are there other ones you know?

A

Agender:

Someone who doesn't have a gender.

Allies:

Someone who supports the LGBT community.

Asexual or ace:

Someone who does not experience sexual attraction.



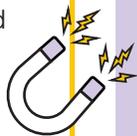
B

Binary: The idea you're one of two things, e.g. male or female, gay or straight.

Bigender: Someone who identifies with two genders e.g. male and female.

Biphobia: The discrimination and hatred of bisexual individuals.

Bisexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to two genders.



C

Cisgender or cis:

When your gender matches the sex you were assigned at birth.

Closet: When someone hasn't revealed their gender or sexual orientation, i.e. 'being in the closet'.

Coming out: The act of an individual revealing to others their gender or sexual orientation.



D

Dyke: A derogatory term directed at lesbians. Some choose to identify this way or reclaim it.

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Demisexual: Someone who only feels sexual attraction to someone after a strong emotional bond has been formed.

G

Gay: A widely accepted term for all same-sex attractions.

Gender: The gender you feel you belong to which may differ from the one you were assigned at birth, based on your genitals.

Gender dysphoria: A medical term for feeling distressed about the fact your gender and assigned sex are different.

Gender neutral: Someone who doesn't identify with any gender.

Genderqueer: When none of the categories on the gender spectrum fit you and you feel you're something else.

Gender fluid: When your identity moves around the gender spectrum.

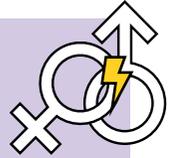


H

Heterosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to someone of the opposite gender to themselves.

Homosexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to the same gender as themselves.

Homophobia: The discrimination and hatred of gay and lesbian people.



I

Intersex: People whose biology doesn't easily fit into male or female. This can include genitals, chromosomes or hormones.

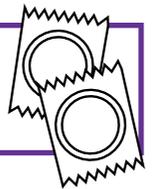
L

Lesbian: A female who is sexually attracted to the same gender.



M

MSM: Stands for 'men who have sex with men'.



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OVERLEAF...



THE LGBT ABC

N

Non-binary:

Someone who doesn't fit into the binary gender (male/female).

Romantic attraction:

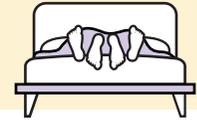
An emotional connection or attachment, separate to sexual attraction.

S

Sex: Sex is often used to talk about the difference between male and female and is commonly defined by reproductive organs.

Sexuality: This refers to your sexual feelings and is often used to mean who you're attracted to.

Straight: See heterosexual.



R



Pansexual: A sexual or emotional attraction, desire or romantic love towards people regardless of gender identity.

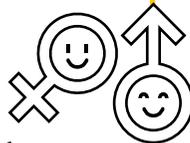
Passing: Being perceived as the gender identity you identify with in public.

Pre-op: A term used by trans individuals who have not had surgery but intend to.

Polygender: 'Poly' means 'more than one' and this describes people who have multiple genders at once.

Polysexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to many genders.

Pronoun: Pronouns are used instead of names, like 'he', 'her' or 'them'. This can be problematic for trans and non-binary people.



T

Third gender: Neither female or male. Countries like India, Pakistan and Albania have long had three gender categories.

Transgender or trans:

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity does not line up with their assigned sex.

Transition: The process a trans person goes through medically, socially or legally in order to live as the gender they belong in.

Transphobia:

The discrimination and hatred of trans and transsexual individuals.



Transsexual: An old fashioned term for someone who goes through, or wants to go through, gender realignment.

Transvestite: Someone who likes to dress as the opposite sex because it feels good, not because they're unhappy with their gender.

Tucking: A method used to tuck the penis back to create the impression of female genitalia.



Unsure: Someone who feels unsure of their sexuality and or gender identity.

U

Variable identities: A person can find themselves assuming various roles to suit the social situation.

V

P

Queer: An umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities. Can have negative connotations for some, while others have reclaimed it.

Questioning:

Someone who may be questioning their gender or sexuality.



Q

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