

# A QUICK REFRESHER ON PRONOUNS

## WHEN SOMEONE CHANGES PRONOUNS, PRACTICE.

Get together with friends or colleagues and practice talking about the person using their new pronouns. You'll probably get it wrong sometimes! When that happens, quickly correct yourself and move on. Mistakes will happen, even in public, but don't let them slide—your friend likely deals with a lot of misgendering, and it helps to speak up so they don't always have to.

## SINGULAR "THEY" IS GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT.

In fact, its first recorded use was in 1375, and it actually predates singular "you!" Just like singular "you," keep plural verbs for singular "they." The pronoun conjugation is the same, though you might want to use "themselves" instead of "themselves" since your subject is singular.

## PRONOUN CONJUGATION

Pronouns take several forms depending on their function within a sentence. These are typically listed in the following order:

### **Subject/Object/Possessive adj./Possessive/Reflexive**

As a familiar example, someone using "she" pronouns we're used to would conjugate her pronouns like this:

### **she/her/her/hers/herself**

Someone using the neopronoun "e" (called Spivak pronouns) would conjugate eir pronouns like this:

### **e/em/eir/eirs/emself**

## PRONOUNS DON'T EQUAL GENDER.

Anyone can use any pronouns they feel fit them! Pronouns help us express relationships with masculinity, femininity, and neutrality (or other concepts entirely, for neopronouns).

@ordinarilymeg

## SOME PEOPLE USE NEW PRONOUNS.

These are often called neopronouns, and they speak to identity in ways that aren't related to the concept of binary gender. They still conjugate out, though!

If you encounter a neopronoun set you're unfamiliar with, give it a Google. If you can't find the conjugation, it's okay to ask for it!

## SOME PEOPLE USE MULTIPLE PRONOUNS.

Use them all! You can alternate back and forth every pronoun or every other sentence, but don't default to only using the more familiar one unless that person requests it. (Like learning to apply new pronouns, this will take practice! Grab a buddy and work on it together.)

If you're trying on new pronouns, use the Pronoun Dressing Room!  
<http://www.pronouns.failedslacker.com>