



# How to Understand and Ask About Pronouns Respectfully

## Why Pronouns Matter

When you meet someone for the first time, understanding and using their correct pronouns expresses respect and creates an inclusive environment. It's a fundamental part of acknowledging their identity.

## Personal Introductions

Begin by sharing your pronouns: "Hello, I'm Alex Rowan, and my pronouns are ze/zim. It's a pleasure to meet you." This gesture invites others to share theirs in turn.

## Asking Someone's Pronouns

A simple "How would you prefer to be addressed?" or "May I ask what pronouns you use?" shows thoughtfulness. Ensure this inquiry is made in a private or appropriate setting to avoid putting someone on the spot.

## In Group Settings

Offer your name and pronouns and encourage others to do the same. This practice allows everyone to state their pronouns without feeling singled out.

## When Pronouns Are Unknown

Use they/them/theirs or the person's name until you learn their pronouns. This approach shows respect and avoids making assumptions.

## Fostering Inclusivity

By adopting these respectful practices, we help cultivate a community where every person's identity is valued and celebrated.

## Remember

Engage with others kindly, humbly, and with the best of intentions. Asking about and correctly using someone's pronouns is more than just good manners—it's a basic form of human respect.

