

# LGBT Common Terms

## A No Where Near Complete List of Terms Used to Describe Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

(See more at: <http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2013/01/a-comprehensive-list-of-lgbtq-term-definitions/#sthash.EU9fVD9Y.dpuf>)

**LGBT:** the most accepted way to respectfully refer to people who are sexual minorities; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

**LGBT2SQOIAA+:** any combination of letters attempting to represent all the identities in the LGBT community. This one represents Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Two Spirits, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Ally

**Ally:** a straight person who supports equal rights for LGBT people

**Androgyny:** a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity

**Asexual:** a person who generally does not experience sexual attraction (or very little) to any group of people

**Bigender:** a person who fluctuates between traditionally “woman” and “man” gender-based behavior and identities, identifying with both genders (and sometimes a third gender)

**Bisexual:** a person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction to people of their own gender as well as another gender; *often confused for and used in place of “pansexual”*

**Cisgender:** a description for a person whose gender identity, gender expression, and biological sex all align (e.g., man, masculine, and male)

**Closeted:** a person who is keeping their sexuality or gender identity a secret from some, many, or all people, and has yet to “come out of the closet”

**Coming Out:** the process of revealing your sexuality or gender identity to individuals in your life; often incorrectly thought to be a one-time event, this is a lifelong and sometimes daily process; *not to be confused with “outing”*

**FTM/MTF:** a person who has undergone medical treatments to change their biological sex (Female To Male, or Male To Female), to align it with their gender identity

**Gay:** a term used to describe a man who is attracted to men, but also used as a blanket term for all people who are fall out of the sexual norm

**Genderless:** a person who does not identify with any gender

**Genderqueer:** a blanket term used to describe people whose gender falls outside of the gender binary

**Heterosexual:** a medical definition for a person who is attracted to someone with the other gender (or, literally, biological sex) than they have; *often referred to as “straight”*

**Homosexual:** a medical definition for a person who is attracted to someone with the same gender (or, literally, biological sex) they have; this is considered an offensive/stigmatizing term by many members of the LGBT community

**Intersex:** a person with a set of sexual anatomy that doesn't fit within the labels of female or male (e.g., 47, XXY phenotype, uterus and penis)

**Outing:** when someone reveals another person's sexuality or gender identity without their consent or approval; not to be confused with “coming out”

**Pansexual:** a person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions

**Queer:** a term that has been reclaimed by the LGBT community representing all individuals who fall out of the gender and sexuality norms; it is becoming more accepted by LGBT youth but less so by the older generation

**Questioning:** the process of exploring one's own sexual orientation, investigating influences from their family, religious upbringing, and internal motivations

**Skoliosexual:** attracted to genderqueer and transsexual people and expressions (people who don't identify as cisgender)

**Straight:** a person who is attracted to people of the other binary gender than themselves; *often referred to as “heterosexual”*

**Third Gender:** (1) a person who does not identify with the traditional genders of “man” or “woman,” but identifies with another gender; (2) the gender category available in societies that recognize three or more genders

**Transgender:** a blanket term used to describe all people who are not cisgender; *occasionally used as “transgendered” but the “ed” is misleading, as it implies something happened to the person to make them transgender, which is not the case*

**Transitioning:** a term used to describe the process of moving from one sex/gender to another; sometimes this is done by hormone or surgical treatments

**Two-Spirit:** a term traditionally used by Native American people to recognize individuals who possess qualities or fulfill roles of both genders