

Trans Etiquette

- Use the person's preferred pronouns. A non-intrusive way to find out what they are is to introduce yourself, state which pronouns you prefer, and ask everyone else to do the same.
- Use their preferred name. The name assigned at birth is likely not accurate for a trans person. Do not insist on using it, or ask what it is.
- Be patient. People in transition are figuring out a lot of things. They may experiment with different names and/or pronouns as they start to find their place.
- If you slip up with names and/or pronouns, catch and correct yourself. Don't dwell or bring more attention to the slip.
- Do not refer to a trans person as "transgendered"; it is grammatically incorrect, and implies that being transgender is something that "happened" to them.
- There is no right or wrong way to transition. For every trans person there are just as many ways to transition.
- Do not gender police restrooms or locker rooms. Let people use the restroom they feel most comfortable in. It is a health issue.
- Do not "out" trans people. Besides this being hugely disrespectful, it can also be dangerous. Ways one may inadvertently "out" someone is by using their birth name, or birth pronouns, or gender assigning activities ("it's a girl thing").
- Asking questions: be respectful of a person's privacy and boundaries. Do not ask uninvited questions about their transition, hormones, surgery, their sexual orientation, their body, etc.
- If you have questions, a good way to ask is "Would it be okay if I asked you about (blank) sometime?"
- Remember that trans people are not walking encyclopedias of transgender knowledge. Each experience is different, each person deals with it differently, and has different experiences.