

# Language 101

Excerpted from: A providers Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for LGBT Individuals, training curriculum.



# Definitions

**Gender:** femaleness or femininity and maleness or masculinity

**Gender Role:** masculine or feminine behaviors

**Gender Identity:** inner sense of oneself, a person's self-concept, in terms of gender

**Sexual Orientation:** distinct from gender identity, describes one's attraction to, sexual desire for, lust for, romantic attachments to others; lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual.



# TERMS

## Categories

- **SEX**
- **GENDER/GENDER ROLE**
- **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**
- **GENDER IDENTITY**

## Descriptors

- **Lesbian**
- **Gay**
- **Bisexual**
- **Transgender**
- **Transsexual**
- **Heterosexual**
- **Queer**
- **Male**
- **Female**
- **Masculine**
- **Feminine**
- **Intersex**
- **Genderqueer**

# TERMS

## Categories and Descriptors

### SEX

- Male
- Female

### SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Queer

### GENDER/GENDER ROLE

- Male
- Female
- Masculine
- Feminine

### GENDER IDENTITY

- Transgender
- Transsexual
- Male
- Female
- Queer or Genderqueer
- Intersex

# Language tips

## Do

- Use Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender
- Try to use the words they identify with (unless they make you uncomfortable)
- Use the same pronoun someone refers to themselves with
- If you mess that up, apologize quickly and move on
- Ask if you don't know which pronoun someone prefers

## Don't

- Use queer or fag or dyke unless someone indicates they want it (and then only if you are comfortable)
- Forget queer started as a pejorative, but is changing for some younger people into an affirmation statement of identity.
- Forget to ask if you are unsure of anything.
- Get paralyzed with fear, jumping in with good intentions is a very powerful action!