

## Trans Etiquette

1. *Treat trans people as you would anyone else-* Sometimes people get apprehensive or nervous around trans people, thinking they need special attention or accommodation. Trans people need not be considered as a special consideration, but rather a fellow human being.
2. *Use the correct name and pronoun-* Most names and pronouns are gendered. It's important to be considerate of one's gender identity by using the pronouns of the respective gender pronouns, or gender-neutral pronouns, they use. Names are also extremely important for trans people; their name is an integral piece of their identity. Using the wrong name is disrespectful and can harken back to a different time and experience of being trans
3. *If you make a mistake with a pronoun or name, move on-* do not continually refer to your mistake. It's best to apologize for the mistake and continue moving forward, trying to remember preferred names and pronouns. Harping on the same mistake can begin to sting and focuses attention on a trans person's incongruence of sex and gender assigned at birth and how they identify.
4. *Don't say, "I'll never get that pronoun/name right."* – this implies that the person's identity is burdensome and that you're unwilling to commit to honoring their identity as a trans person. Instead, simply apologize and ensure them you're trying to be conscious of their name/pronoun choice.
5. *Don't say, "You will always be a man/woman in my eyes."* – Despite their physical appearance and sex/gender assigned at birth, gender identity and sex are both intrinsic identities, and you should try to honor the person for who they are, not how you see them.
6. *Don't ask personal questions unless you are invited to.* – Personal questions are a sensitive issue for anyone. Be respectful of privacy, especially around topics directly involving sex or genitalia. If you wouldn't want to be asked a question, someone else likely wouldn't as well. Ask permission or wait for it to be granted before trying to delve into their private life.
7. *Don't "out" a trans person.* – A trans persons' identity isn't always public knowledge. Passing as whichever gender or sex they identify with is extremely important for their well-being, both physically and emotionally. Outing a trans person could result in harm, prejudice, or bullying.
8. *Don't make assumptions-* ones gender identity/expression does not always match their physical appearance or sex assigned at birth. Be considerate of someone's transgression across these boundaries.
9. *Use terms like "cisgender" instead of "normal."* – Saying "normal" implies that trans people are in fact not normal. Contrasting "trans" and "normal" exposes a superiority complex. If trans isn't "normal," then it has to be some of the other antonyms of normal: weird, strange, freaky.

