

QUEERING

SEX

ED.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Queering Sex Ed. is a program of Planned Parenthood Toronto,
generously funded by the Community One Foundation



LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

A DISCLAIMER ON LANGUAGE AND DEFINITIONS:

Language has power, and can be used to empower or degrade people. It's constantly changing: from moment to moment, context to context, and generation to generation.

The terms that we're defining are self-identified. Nobody can tell you who you are or how you should identify, and you can't tell other people who they are. Choose the language that works for you. You also don't have to identify with any term!

Ally: A person who works in solidarity with members of an oppressed group, supporting them in the struggle against oppression while not always identifying within the oppressed group.

Androgynous: An expression of gender that is ambiguous.

Asexual: A person who is not sexually attracted to other people, but may be attracted to them in other ways such as emotionally or romantically.

Attraction: A quality or feature of someone that evokes interest, liking, or desire. This can be: sexual, emotional, financial, intellectual, spiritual, cultural, physical, or any combination of these.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

- Bathhouse:** An establishment where people go to have sex (most often referring to men having sex with other men, may have certain events for women and trans people).
- Bicurious:** A person who is exploring which gender(s) they may be attracted to.
- Bicurious:** A person who is exploring which gender(s) they may be attracted to.
- Biphobia:** Discomfort, hatred and/or fear of bisexual people and people perceived to be bisexual. This is experienced by people within queer communities as well as outside of them.
- Bisexual:** A person who can be attracted to either male or female identified people.
- Body Parts:** Can be called different things by different people. You might use, or might of heard, different names for different parts. You can use what names are best for you. Check out: http://issuu.com/carlysoos/docs/ap_sex_ed/1
- Bottom:** A person that identifies with being more submissive and likes to receive stimulation during sex. This is often used for the receptive partner and can be used in specifically BDSM situations.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Cisgender: Someone who identifies with the gender and sex they were assigned at birth.

Cissexism: An idea in society, supported by actions and policies that enforce the idea, that cisgender people are superior and everyone should be cisgender.

Coming Out: To declare and affirm to oneself and possibly to others your identity as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, etc. It may not be a single event but can be a lifelong process. Coming out is often considered to be a white, European/North American idea. Not everyone has the means (ie. privilege) to come out; not everyone thinks that it is necessary to come out at all. Check out:
<http://teenhealthsource.com/sgd/sexuality-coming-out/>

Consent: All parties engaging in sex are into it. For more information check out the Consent & Communication Queering Sex Ed resource.

Crossdresser: A person who sometimes wears clothes that represent a gender other than that with which they identify.

Cybersex: Having a sexual encounter with someone on a computer or phone. This can be through video pictures and/or text.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Drag: A performance art in which people dress and perform as a gender other than that with which they identify. Some drag performers though do identify with the gender that they are performing.

FAAB: An acronym. It stands for Female-Assigned At Birth.

Femme: A term used by many feminine-identified queer people. Being femme is not linked to any specific sex, gender or gender identity.

Fetish: Any object or nongenital part of the body that causes a habitual erotic response or fixation.

FTM: A trans* person who considers themselves to be transitioning from female to male.

Gay: A male-identified person who is attracted to male-identified people.

Gender and Sexual Minorities: People who identify outside of straight or cisgender norms.

Gender Expression: How a person chooses to express their gender to the world (through clothing, behaviour, etc.).

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Gender Fluid: People who have shifting gender identities, meaning their gender can change over time anywhere along the gender spectrum.

Gender Identity: How a person views themselves in regards to the gender assigned at birth and the gender they currently identify with.

Genderqueer: A person who does not necessarily identify as either a man or woman, may identify as both man and woman, or identifies outside of traditional Western ideas of gender.

Gender Neutral Pronouns: Pronouns used to avoid referring to someone as "he/him" or "she/her." Some people explicitly ask for gender-neutral pronouns, as these are the most comfortable for them; other people will use them as generics. A short list of the most common gender-neutral pronouns:

1. They, them They smiled • I called them • their cat purred • it's theirs • they like themselves
2. Sie, hir (pron. see/hear)
3. Sie smiled • I called hir • hir cat purred • it's hers • sie likes herself
4. Zie, zim (like he/him, but with a "z" at the front)
5. Zie smiled • I called zim • zir cat purred • it's zirs • zie likes zirsself
6. Ey, em (like they/them without the "th")
7. Ey smiled • I called em • eir cat purred • it's eirs • ey likes emself

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Homophobia: Discomfort, hatred and/or fear of people who identify as queer, specifically those who are lesbian or gay or are perceived to be lesbian or gay. This is sometimes used as an umbrella term also including biphobia and transphobia.

In the Closet: May mean hiding one's LGBTQ identity in order to avoid negative social repercussions, such as losing a job, housing, friends or family. You could also decide to be "in the closet" because it is irrelevant to your interactions with certain people. Many queer and trans* individuals are "out" in some situations and "closeted" in others.

Intersex: Someone who doesn't fit medical definitions of male/female - this can be because of body parts, chromosomes, hormones or any combination of these.

Lesbian: A female-identified person who is attracted to other female-identified people.

Lube A substance used for minimizing friction during
(lubricant): sex (note: some people may be allergic to certain kinds of lube).

MAAB: An acronym. It stand for Male-Assigned At Birth.

Masturbation: Self-pleasure.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

MSM: Male-identified people who have sex with other male-identified people, but who don't necessarily identify as gay, bisexual or queer.

MTF: A trans* person who considers themselves to be transitioning from male to female.

Non-Binary: An umbrella term that covers any identities outside the gender binary of woman/man or sexual orientation binary of gay/straight.

Non-op: Shorthand for non-operative, describing people who have not, or don't plan to, undergo any surgery related to their trans* identity.

Pansexual: A person who is attracted to people from across the gender spectrum.

Polyamorous: A person who may have ongoing relationships with more than one person at once.

Porn: Printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual body parts or activity.

Post-Op: Refers to trans* people who have completed or started surgery/medical procedures to change their physical body: this may include changes to genitalia and/or secondary sex characteristics (breasts, facial hair etc).

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Queer: An umbrella term that can be used to define people who do not identify as straight or cisgender. Historically a negative word, the word queer has been reclaimed by some members of the LGBTQ community to refer positively to themselves.

Queerspawn: A child, youth, or adult who comes from a LGBTQ-identified family.

Questioning: A person who is trying to figure out their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Reclaimed Language: Terms that have been used negatively against a community, that people within the community have 'taken back' and now use with a positive connotation. For example, queer.

Safe Word: A word or series of words and/or non-verbal cues that people set up prior to a sexual and/or BDSM encounter to help negotiate and communicate during the act. A common example is "red, yellow, green", with "red" meaning stop, "yellow" meaning slow down, and "green" meaning keep going.

Safer Sex: Sexual activity engaged in by people who have taken precautions to protect themselves against sexually transmitted infections or unwanted pregnancy.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Sex Toy: An object or device that is primarily used to facilitate sexual pleasure.

Sex Work: Engaging with others sexually in exchange for money, goods or services.

Sexual Orientation: How a person identifies themselves in terms of who they are attracted to. For example: straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or pansexual (see definition of attraction).

SRS: Stands for sex reassignment surgery. This can include changing genitalia and/ or secondary sex characteristics (breasts, facial hair etc).

Stealth: A trans* person who chooses not to identify as trans* to the public.

STI: Stands for sexually transmitted infections. For more information on sexually transmitted infections, check out:

1. www.scarleteen.com/tags/sti
2. www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/std-mts/index-eng.php
3. <http://teenhealthsource.com/topics/stisetc/>

Straight: A female-identified person attracted to male-identified people/ A male-identified person attracted to female-identified people.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

**Switch/
Versatile:** A person who is willing to take on different roles in sex, liking to both give and receive.

Top: A person that identifies with being more dominant and likes to give stimulation during sex. This is often used for the insertive partner and can be used in specifically BDSM situations.

Trans Man: A man who was assigned a female identity at birth but identifies as male and may use masculine pronouns.

**Trans
Woman:** A woman who was assigned a male identity at birth but identifies as female and may use feminine pronouns.

Trans* An umbrella term for people who feel that they don't identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. This term is sometimes used as a short form of transgender.

Transgender: An umbrella term for people who feel that they don't fit into the gender they were assigned at birth. This term is sometimes shortened to trans*.

Transphobia: Discomfort, hatred and/or fear of trans* people and people who are perceived to be trans*.

LANGUAGE & DEFINITIONS

Transsexual: A person who does not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. A transsexual person may have changed how they look to fit how they feel, may be in the process, or may want to.

Two-Spirit (or 2 Spirit): a term referring to Aboriginal, First Nations and Metis people whose identities are outside of the straight, cisgender norm. A Two Spirit person may or may not dually identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or trans*. The term refers to the idea that a person has both a male and a female spirit inside them. This term is specific to Aboriginal, First Nations and Metis people and should not be used as an identity by those outside these communities.

WSW: Female-identified people who have sex with other female-identified people but who do not necessarily identify as lesbian, bisexual or queer.

This list isn't exhaustive and people use their own terms.