

Matching Game Vocabulary

Asexual

- A person who may experience little or no sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in sexual relationships/behavior. This identity exists on a continuum from people who experience no sexual attraction or have any desire for sex, to those who experience low levels, or sexual attraction only under specific conditions. Sometimes abbreviated to “ace.”

Biphobia

- The systemic oppression of bisexual people specifically because they are bisexual

Bisexual

- A person whose sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction may be for people of two or more genders

Cisgender

- A term used to describe someone whose birth sex and current gender identity are in alignment. Sometimes referred to as “non-transgender”

Cisgender Privilege

- Unearned privileges that go to cisgender people simply because they are cisgender: e.g., seeing people of your gender in films and television in a way does not solely make your identity the focus of a dramatic storyline or the punch line for a joke; having your gender as an option on a form

Cissexism

- The belief or assumption that cis people’s gender identities, expressions, and embodiments are more natural and legitimate than those of trans or nonbinary people

Coming Out

- The process by which one accepts and/or comes to identify one’s own sexuality or gender identity (to “come out” to oneself); the process by

which one shares one's sexuality or gender identity with others. Coming out often happens multiple times in a person's life, and a person may be out in some spaces but not in others.

Drag King/Queen

- Cross-dressing for performances and not as often interested in having gender attributed on basis of clothing.

Fag/Dyke/Butch

- Terms which may have been oppressive when used by people outside the community but which some people have chosen to reclaim despite their history of being used in hurtful ways. If someone uses this language to describe themselves, it is okay to mirror that language but in an advocacy role, it is a good practice to clarify with them how they would like you to refer to their identity/identities in other situations (I.E- to lawyers, in counseling referrals).

Gay

- Someone whose primary sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attractions may be for people of the same gender. While many people use this word only to refer to men, others use it as a general term to include both men and women, e.g. "the ____ community"

Gender Binary

- The idea that there are only two genders and that every person is one of those two.

Gender Expression

- External and socially perceived. May include one's behaviors, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, and social interactions. How one communicates their gender.

Gender Identity

- One's personal view of one's own gender.

Gender Role

- The collection of society's assumptions, expectations and traditions for how a person of a particular gender is supposed to act and be acted upon socially.

Heterosexism

- The belief that heterosexual relationships and people are ideal and better or more normal than queer relationships or people

Heterosexual Privilege

- Unearned privileges that go to straight people simply because they are straight: e.g., seeing relationships that look like yours in mainstream media and talk publicly about crushes and intimate relationships

Homophobia

- The systemic oppression of lesbians and gay men based on their sexuality

Homosexual

- Refers to any person whose sexual and romantic feelings are for people of the same gender. While once widely used, it is generally not preferred as it did not emerge from within the community and was used to describe a mental illness

Intersex

- Term for a combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals that differs from the two expected patterns of male or female. Formerly known as hermaphrodite (or hermaphroditic), but these terms are now outdated and derogatory.

Lesbian

- A woman whose primary sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction may be people of the same gender

Outing

- Involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status. Outing may be done with the intention to harm the individual, but also may be done by those intending to be supportive but do so without the consent of the individual

Pansexual

- A person who may experience sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions. Often shortened to "pan."

Queer

- An inclusive term which refers collectively to lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender folks and other who may not identify with any of these categories but do identify with this term. While once used as a hurtful, oppressive term, many people have reclaimed it as an expression of power and pride

Sex

- A medical term used to describe the physical characteristics one has such as genitalia, chromosomes, and hormones. Usually subdivided into 'male' and 'female', assigned at birth based on the appearance of the baby's genitals. This category does not recognize the existence of intersex bodies.

Transgender

- A term to describe a continuum of individuals whose gender identity and how it's expressed, to varying degrees, are different from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transition

- The process of shifting toward a gender role different from the one you were assigned at birth. This can include social transition, like using new and affirming names, pronouns and clothing, and/or medical transition, like hormone therapy or surgery.

Transphobia

- The systemic oppression of transgender people because they may not fit societal gender expectations.