

PRONOUN USE GUIDE

Purpose: Name and practice using pronouns to reinforce and normalize usage in the classroom and beyond.

GENDER PRONOUNS

Please note that these are not the only pronouns that you might encounter. There are an infinite number of pronouns, and new ones are always emerging. Always ask someone for their pronouns.

SUBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE	REFLEXIVE	EXAMPLE
She	Her	Hers	Herself	She is speaking. I listened to her. The backpack is hers.
He	Him	His	Himself	He is speaking. I listened to him. The backpack is his.
They	Them	Theirs	Themselves	They are speaking. I listened to them. The backpack is theirs.
Ze	Hir/Zir	Hirs/Zirs	Hirself/Zirself	Ze is speaking. I listened to hir. The backpack is zirs.

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PRONOUNS IN PRACTICE

She/her/hers/herself

Ariana is exhausted, so **she** is going to get coffee. **Her** friend Ally is going with **her**. On the walk there, Ariana drops **her** wallet and doesn't notice. A few steps later, a stranger taps Ally on the shoulder and says, "I think you dropped this." Ally says, "oh, that's **hers!**" and gestures to Ariana. Ariana is having a bad day, and snaps at Ally, saying that **she** would've noticed, and that **she** can take care of **herself**.

He/him/his/his/himself

Oliver is exhausted, so **he** is going to get coffee. **His** friend Ally is going with **him**. On the walk there, Oliver drops his wallet and doesn't notice. A few steps later, a stranger taps Ally on the shoulder and says, "I think you dropped this." Ally says, "oh, that's **his!**" and gestures to Oliver. Oliver is having a bad day, and snaps at Ally, saying that **he** would've noticed, and that **he** can take care of **himself**.

They/them/their/theirs/themselves

Kavi is exhausted, so **they** are going to get coffee. **Their** friend Ally is going with **them**. On the walk there, Kavi drops **their** wallet and doesn't notice. A few steps later, a stranger taps Ally on the shoulder and says, "I think you dropped this." Ally says, "oh, that's **theirs!**" and gestures to Kavi. Kavi is having a bad day, and snaps at Ally, saying that **they** would've noticed, and that **they** can take care of **themselves**.