

Sexual Orientation and Gender Usage Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: The 10th edition of the *AMA Manual of Style* addresses usage issues for sexual orientation and gender, detailing the appropriate use of terms such as *lesbian*, *gay*, *homosexual*, *heterosexual*, *male*, *female*, *woman*, *man*, *boy*, and *girl* (see 11.10.1, Sex/Gender). Because this area of Correct and Preferred Usage is continuing to evolve, this quiz delves into more precise gender and sexual orientation terms and explores acronyms encountered when editing articles that involve issues of sexual orientation and gender. Many answers are based on information found on the GLAAD Media Reference Guide – Transgender Issues website (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>) and the Gender Equity Resource Center website (http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definition_of_terms).

1. Which term means the classification of people as male or female? **Sex**

Editor's Note: *At birth infants are assigned a sex, usually based on the appearance of their external anatomy. However, a person's sex is actually a combination of bodily characteristics, including chromosomes, hormones, internal and external reproductive organs, and secondary sex characteristics* (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

2. Which term means one's internal sense of masculinity or femininity? **Gender identity**

Editor's Note: *One's internal, deeply held sense of one's gender. Most people have a gender identity of man or woman (or boy or girl). For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those 2 choices. Gender identity is not visible to others* (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

3. Which term means people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth? **Transgender**

Editor's Note: *Transgender people are those whose psychological self (gender identity) differs from the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with, for example, a female with a masculine gender identity or who identifies as a man. Transgender is not a sexual orientation; transgender people may have any sexual orientation* (http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definition_of_terms).

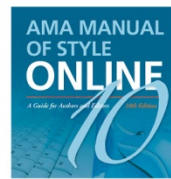
4. Which is the preferred term for the medical condition in which a person lacks identification with one's sex and/or gender assigned at birth? **Gender dysmorphia**

Editor's Note: *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), replaced the outdated entry gender identity disorder with gender dysmorphia and changed the criteria for diagnosis* (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

5. Which is the preferred term for physician-supervised surgical interventions to alter one's birth sex? **Sex reassignment surgery**

Editor's Note: *Refers to physician-supervised surgical interventions and is only one small part of transition. The terms sex change operation, preoperative, or postoperative should be avoided in this context. Not all transgender people undergo surgery. The role of surgery in the transition process should not be overemphasized* (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).





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6. Which term means a person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman, presenting a gender either mixed or neutral? **Androgenous**

Editor's Note: *Androgenous has to do with appearance not sexual orientation.*

7. Which term means a person who is attracted to 2 sexes or 2 genders but not necessarily simultaneously or equally? **Bisexual**

Editor's Note: *Bisexual used to be defined as a person who is attracted to both genders or both sexes, but because there are not only 2 sexes (eg, intersex and transsexual) and there are not only 2 genders (eg, transgender), this definition is inaccurate (http://geneg.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definiton_of_terms).*

8. Which term means a set of medical conditions that feature congenital anomaly of the reproductive and sexual system? **Intersex**

Editor's Note: *Intersex people are born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or internal reproductive systems that are not considered standard for either male or female (http://geneg.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definiton_of_terms).*

9. What does the initialism LGBT stand for? Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender

10. What does the initialism MSM stand for? Men who have sex with men (but who may not necessarily self-identify as gay or bisexual).

11. What does the acronym DSD stand for? Differences of sex development (eg, Klinefelter syndrome or Turner syndrome)

12. What do the initialisms FTM and MTF stand for? Female to male and male to female (as in transitioning)

13. What does the acronym LGBTIQ stand for? Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer

14. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:

Many transgendered people participated in the gay pride parade.

Editor's Note: *Transgender should be used as an adjective, not as a noun (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).*

15. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:

The patient was designated male at birth.

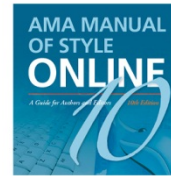
Editor's Note: *A person's sex is determined by a number of factors, not simply genetics, and one's biology does not trump one's gender identity (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).*

16. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:

The patient was scheduled for sex reassignment surgery.

Editor's Note: *Referring to a sex change operation or using terms such as preoperative or postoperative inaccurately suggests that one must undergo surgery to transition. Avoid overemphasizing surgery when discussing transgender people or the process of transition (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).*





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17. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:
After undergoing sex reassignment surgery, Sue changed physicians.
Editor's Note: *Avoid dehumanizing pronouns such as she/he and it*
(<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

18. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:
The patient's history reveals that he is a cross-dresser.
Editor's Note: *The term cross-dresser is preferred to the term transvestite*
(<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

19. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:
The meeting was organized by the gay members of the homeowners' association.
Editor's Note: *Use the term gay as an adjective not a noun.*

20. Edit the following sentence to eliminate problematic language:
The movement for transgender equality was gaining ground in the rural community.
Editor's Note: *Transgenderism is not a term commonly used by transgender people. This is a term used by antitransgender activists to dehumanize transgender people and reduce who they are to a condition. Refer to being transgender instead or to the transgender community. You can also refer to the movement for transgender equality* (<http://www.glaad.org/reference/transgender>).

