



Tips for Using Pronouns

Grinnell College

Why We Share Our Pronouns

At Grinnell College, we're always working to include and engage everyone. One way you can do this is to share your pronouns, or the words you want to be called when people aren't using your name. Like names, pronouns are an important part of how we identify that deserves to be respected. And we recognize that assuming someone's gender can be hurtful, especially to members of our community who are transgender, genderqueer, or non-binary.

As a community, we are all learning together about the importance of pronouns and being better allies to the trans community on campus. We hope that you'll join us in striving for inclusion, justice and respect—because at Grinnell, we welcome all.

Types of Pronouns

He, him, his: can indicate that the subject is male.

- Tyler said he is going to the dining hall for brunch.
- Andrew told me that his favorite class was history.
- We shouldn't go to the meeting without him.

She, her, hers: can indicate that the subject is female.

- Monica called me to say that she is signing up for the activist group.
- Sarah left her bag at home.
- That pen is hers.

They, them, theirs: does not indicate the subject's gender. Functions as both a singular and plural pronoun.

- Taylor doesn't want to go to the movie because they think it'll be scary.
- Carl is studying abroad soon. I'm so excited for them!
- Tonight I'm going to their performance.

Ze, hir, hers: does not indicate the subject's gender. Pronounced zee, here and heres.

- Ze is meeting us before we walk to Campus Safety.
- I heard hir singing at the Open Mic.
- I think that burrito is hers.
