

The Acronym, Explained

L**G****B****T****Q****2****S****+**

The acronyms LGBTQ2S+, LGBTQ+, and LGBTQ2 +(and other versions) refer to the spectrum of sexual and gender identities that are not cisgender and heterosexual. They include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two spirit, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual. The asterisk (*) or plus sign (+) shows there are other identities included that aren't in the acronym.

In replace of the acronym, younger generations have adopted the term 'queer' as it describes both the entire community and it can used as a specific identity. However, in the past the term queer has been used in a derogatory way and can still be painful to hear from some older LGBTQ2S+ adults.

Lesbian

A woman who is physically and/or romantically attracted to other women.

Gay

A man who is physically and/or romantically attracted to other men.

Bisexual

A person who is physically and/or romantically attracted to two or more genders.

Trans

A person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their sex-assigned-at-birth.

Asexual: a person who has no sexual feelings or who is not sexually attracted to anyone.

Pansexual: a person who is physically and/or romantically attracted to all genders.

Intersex: a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of "female" or "male"

Queer

Any orientation or identity that's not straight and cisgender.

'Q' sometimes stands for questioning

Two Spirit

Two-Spirit is a term used within some Indigenous communities, encompassing cultural, spiritual, sexual and gender identity.

+ Plus

The "+" is used to show there are more gender and sexual identities beyond that version of the acronym. Other identities that you may see in the acronym include: