



just like us

EMPOWERING LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE

What are pronouns?

Session summary		Pupil context
Pupils will explore the use of pronouns. They will begin to use the gender-neutral pronoun 'they' in the English language before exploring pronouns around the world.		KS2 pupils
Session aims	Resources needed	Link to English curriculum
Pupils will: Identify different pronouns Use pronouns he/she/they Learn about different pronouns in different languages.	Presentation	Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms.
Link to Welsh curriculum	Link to Scottish curriculum	Link to NI curriculum
Read and respond to a variety of written languages.	Develop sensitivity towards different peoples, their customs, values and perspectives	Begin to develop an awareness of the range of possibilities available in the wider world
Preparation ahead of the session		
▸ You may need to let pupils know about School Diversity Week: you can find explainer slides in our resource library.		

Timing	Activity	Suggestions for differentiation
0-5	Pronoun badges <p>▸ Show Image 1 of pronoun badges.</p> <p>Think-Pair-Share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think these are? • What do you think they are used for? • Why might people wear these? <p>▸ Summarise pupils' responses and say: we all like to be referred to in a way that makes us feel accepted. Today we will be investigating how pronouns can help with this.</p>	
5-10	What is a noun? <p>▸ Ask: What is a noun?</p> <p>▸ Say: A noun is used to identify people, places, or things.</p> <p>▸ Ask: What is a pronoun?</p> <p>▸ Say: Pronouns take the place of a noun in a sentence to refer to someone without using their name, such as he/him/his or she/her/hers. Some languages have more pronouns than others as they change depending on case, gender, or even the relationship between speakers.</p>	
10-15	Pronouns with Pop'n'Olly <p>▸ Watch Gender Pronouns video by Pop'n'Olly: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWiotYP_AHY</p> <p>Ask: What are your preferred pronouns?</p>	
15-20	Types of pronouns <p>▸ Say there are 7 types of pronouns but today we will be focusing on three:</p> <p>Personal Pronouns: These represent people, places and things.</p> <p>Possessive Pronouns: These show ownership and replace possessive noun phrases.</p> <p>Reflexive Pronouns: These refer back to an earlier noun or pronoun in a sentence.</p> <p>▸ Show image 1 and the sentence below.</p> <p>▸ Ask a pupil to read the sentence aloud.</p> <p><i>Ariana Grande is an American singer. Ariana Grande was born 28th June 1993. 'Thank you, Next' is Ariana Grande's top selling album. Ariana Grande is the first musical artist to replace Ariana Grande at number one in the music charts.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Ariana Grande is known for Ariana Grande’s signature ponytail hairdo.</i></p> <p>‣ Think-Pair-Share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you notice? • Does this sound right? • What is wrong with this sentence? <p>‣ Ask pupils to rewrite the sentence, adding pronouns to avoid repetition.</p> <p><i>Ariana Grande is an American singer. She was born 28th June 1993. ‘Thank you, Next’ is her top selling album. She is the first musical artist to replace herself at number one in the music charts. Ariana Grande is known for her signature ponytail hairdo.</i></p>	<p>Extension: Ask pupils to identify and name the personal, possessive and reflective pronouns. Pupils can then underline in different colours to illustrate their knowledge.</p>
20-25	<p>Practicing pronouns</p> <p>‣ Show Image 2 and the sentence below.</p> <p>‣ Ask a pupil to read the sentence aloud.</p> <p><i>Harry Styles is an English singer. Harry Styles was born on 1st February 1994. ‘Fine Line’ is Harry Styles’ top selling album. Harry Styles was a member of One Direction. Harry Styles is celebrated for Harry Styles’ fashion. Harry Styles describes Harry Styles as spiritual.</i></p> <p>‣ Think-Pair-Share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you notice? • Does this sound right? • What is wrong with this sentence? <p>‣ Ask pupils to rewrite the sentence, adding pronouns to avoid repetition.</p> <p><i>Harry Styles is an English singer. He was born on 1st February 1994. ‘Fine Line’ is his top selling album. He was a member of One Direction. He is celebrated for his fashion. He describes himself as spiritual.</i></p>	<p>Extension: Ask pupils to identify and name the personal, possessive and reflective pronouns. Pupils can then underline in different colours to illustrate their knowledge.</p>

25-30

The pronoun 'they'

▸ So how does this relate to non-binary people?
If pupils have no knowledge of the term non-binary, explain:
Non-binary is an umbrella term for people who don't fit comfortably into 'male' or 'female' categories. Not everyone uses 'he' or 'she' pronouns to express their identity. A common non-binary pronoun is 'they' (they/them/theirs).

- Show image 3 and the sentence below.
- Ask a pupil to read the sentence aloud.

Sam Smith is an English singer and songwriter. Sam Smith identifies Sam Smith as non-binary and uses they/them/their pronouns. Sam Smith was born on 19th May 1992. Sam Smith released Sam Smith's debut album, 'In the Lonely Hour', in May 2014.

- Think-Pair-Share:

- What do you notice?

- Ask pupils to rewrite the sentence, adding pronouns to avoid repetition.

*Sam Smith is an English singer and songwriter. **They** identify **themselves** as non-binary and uses they/them pronouns. **They** were born on 19th May 1992. **They** released **their** debut album, in the Lonely Hour, in May 2014.*

- Show photographs of well known people who use the pronoun they (Courtney Act, Jonathan Van Ness, Asia Kate Dixon, Indya Moore, Elliot Page) Say: these people also use the pronouns they/them/theirs. Ask: do you know why they are famous? Support pupils in using correct pronouns by modeling and correcting.
They are famous for....
They have appeared on Strictly come dancing.
They an an actor/model
They are on the tv show...
Use pronouns to explain who each person is by reading the information on the slide.

Extension: Ask pupils to identify and name the personal, possessive and reflective pronouns. Pupils can then underline in different colours to illustrate their knowledge.

35-40

Other gender-neutral pronouns

- Say: non-gendered pronouns are not only used in the English language, many languages have their own newly established gender-neutral pronouns. These exist on a spectrum of mainstream acceptance to experimental.

- Show slides.
- Say:

	<p><i>In Sweden, 'hen' is used as a pronoun for non-binary people. It was added to the Swedish dictionary in 2015 and today, it's used in the media, in parliament and in everyday speech. Almost everyone in Sweden understands the word and its meaning.</i></p> <p>▸ In French, people have begun to use the pronoun "iel" to refer to non-binary people. However, it is yet to be officially adopted into the French language by the Académie Française.</p> <p>▸ In Germany, you might encounter Germans who use <i>sier</i> and <i>xier</i>.</p> <p>▸ In Spain, though the use of 'elle' as a gender-neutral pronoun is not very common, there is certainly a growing interest in coming up with alternatives for personal pronouns.</p> <p>▸ In Italy gender-neutral pronouns aren't officially recognised. For years "l*i" was used, but some people have started replacing it with "lœi".</p> <p>▸ In China, Mandarin once contained a third person pronoun tā (他) but it was discarded in the 20th century with a push to introduce binary gender (two genders) into the language. Recently the pronoun has come back into use, but Mandarin still has a long way to go.</p> <p>▸ In the Philippines, Tagalog is the national language. In some respects, Tagalog is light years ahead when it comes to inclusive language because some Filipino culture embraces a more fluid understanding of gender. The pronoun "siya" is widely used in the same context as "them," and remains a gender-neutral term.</p>	
40-55	<p>What do you notice?</p> <p>▸ Display the table of personal pronouns from around the world. English – he, she, they French – il, elle, iel Spanish – el ,ella, elle German – er, sie, sier Swedish – han, hon, hen</p> <p>▸ Ask pupils to create a poster to illustrate the different pronouns people can use around the world and to celebrate the power of words to make people feel empowered.</p>	
55-60	<p>Make your own badge</p>	

	▸ Ask pupils to create a personal pronoun badge with their preferred pronouns which they can wear in school.	
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