LET’S TALK ABOUT
PRONOUNS

THEY SAID
WHY ARE PRONOUNS IMPORTANT?
What are pronouns?

Pronouns are words that replace nouns. We use pronouns so we don’t have to repeat the noun multiple times. They help our sentences be more clear.
Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-Verb agreement occurs when the subject (the noun or pronoun of the sentence) is in accordance with the verb conjugation.

*She* and *her* friends are in the library.

*They* are in the library.

*Theresa* and *I* are really good friends.

Neither *Maria* nor *Vanessa* went to Carleigh’s party.
I vs. Me?

The personal pronouns “I” and “me” are sometimes confused when used with another noun.

To ensure the correct pronoun is used, read the sentence without the additional noun.

Maria and me went for ice cream.

Maria and I went for ice cream.

Maria spent the day with Victoria and I.

Maria spent the day with Victoria and me.
ME DON'T ALWAYS USE THE WRONG PRONOUNS

BUT WHEN ME DOES ME TWICE AS FUNNY
Errors with Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used to refer to the same noun as the subject of the verb.

ex: “himself, myself, ourselves”

At times, these pronouns are used improperly.

If you have any concerns contact Bianca or myself.

If you have any concerns, contact Bianca or me.
Antecedents are the words pronouns refer to. Matching these words incorrectly can lead to unclear sentences.

Unclear antecedent: I never go to that place because they are mean.

Ambiguous antecedent: The phone was in the car, but now it’s gone.

Missing antecedent: Every student must have their pencils.

Faraway antecedent: Victoria and her sister went to Vanessa’s birthday party, but she didn't have fun.

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What are some options of gender neutral pronouns?

As transgender issues gain more visibility, the idea of inserting gender neutral pronouns into the vocabulary becomes more popular.

Gender neutral pronouns could be used when talking about individuals that identify outside the gender binary, while simultaneously de-gendering language
# Gender Neutral Pronoun Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominative (subject)</th>
<th>Objective (object)</th>
<th>Possessive determiner</th>
<th>Possessive Pronoun</th>
<th>Reflexive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional pronouns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>He</strong></td>
<td><em>He laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called him</em></td>
<td><em>His eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is his</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>She</strong></td>
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<td><em>I called her</em></td>
<td><em>Her eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is hers</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It</strong></td>
<td><em>It laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called it</em></td>
<td><em>Its eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is its</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>They</strong></td>
<td><em>They laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called them</em></td>
<td><em>Their eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is theirs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invented pronouns</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ne</strong></td>
<td><em>Ne laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called nem</em></td>
<td><em>Nir eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is nirs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ve</strong></td>
<td><em>Ve laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called ver</em></td>
<td><em>Vis eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is vis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spivak</strong></td>
<td><em>Ey laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called em</em></td>
<td><em>Eir eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is eirs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ze (or zie) and hir</strong></td>
<td><em>Ze laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called hir</em></td>
<td><em>Hir eyes gleam</em></td>
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<td><em>Zir eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is zirs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Xe</strong></td>
<td><em>Xe laughed</em></td>
<td><em>I called xem</em></td>
<td><em>Xyr eyes gleam</em></td>
<td><em>That is xys</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WHY ARE GENDER NEUTRAL PRONOUNS IMPORTANT?