Gender-Neutral Terms to Use With Friends and Family

From terms of endearment to words for family members and friends, you can replace gender-specific words with gender-neutral options pretty easily.

Gendered Term	Gender-Neutral Term
aunt or uncle	pibling (stands for "parent's sibling)
boyfriend/husband or girlfriend/wife	partner or significant other
dude or buddy	friend
fiancée/fiancé	betrothed
granddaughter or grandson	grandchild
grandma or grandpa	grandparent
husband or wife	spouse
mother or father	parent
niece or nephew	nibling, chibling, or sibkid (sibling's kid)
sister or brother	sibling
son or daughter	child or progeny

Gender-Neutral Terms for the Workplace

The workplace can be a particularly tricky place to address gender-specific terminology. Any term that includes "man" or "woman" at the end can often have this part changed to "person" to make it gender-neutral.

Gendered Term	Gender-Neutral Term
businessman or businesswoman	business person
chairman or chairwoman	chairperson
crewman	crewperson
foreman	foreperson
layman	layperson
mailman	mail carrier or postal worker
manned	crewed
Mr. or Mrs.	Mx (pronounced "mix")
policeman	police officer
waiter or waitress	server or table attendant

General Gender-Neutral Terms You Can Start Using Every Day

You can also be respectful of the different types of people you might encounter on any given day by replacing some common gendered terms with gender-neutral options.

Gendered Term	Gender-Neutral Term
freshman	first-year student
girl or boy	young person, kid, or teen
handsome or beautiful	attractive or good-looking
hero or heroine	heroix
human	person or being
mankind	humankind or people
man-made	synthetic or machine-made
upperclassmen	upper-level student
woman or man	adult

Gender-Neutral Nuances

Using gender neutral terms is becoming the accepted way to make all people feel recognized and respected. At the moment, there aren't universally accepted standards for gender-neutral words, so the best way to know what to say to a specific person is to ask. Explore what sexist language is and how it can impact the lives of people you care about. Then, you can learn more ways to speak with inclusivity by understanding how to use they/them for a singular person.

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https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/30-everyday-gender-neutral-terms-to-use.html