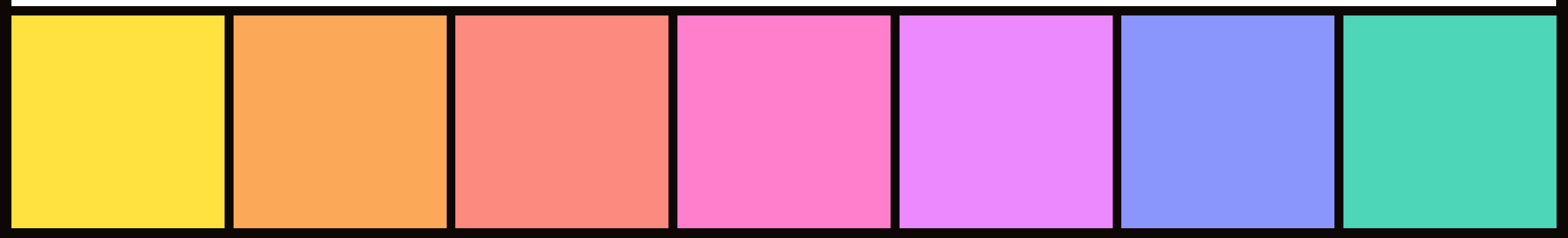
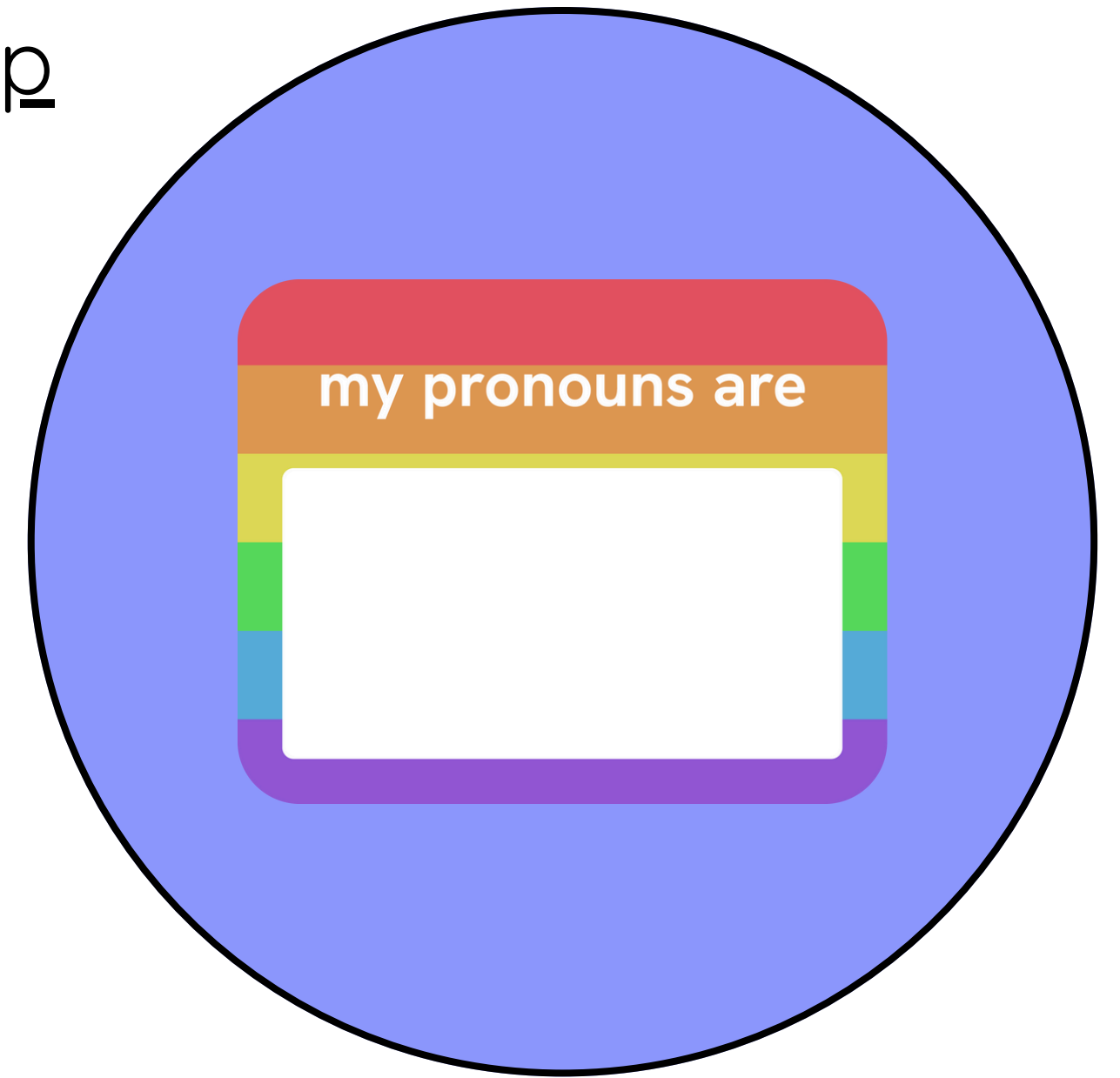


Lane County Queer Educators Affinity Group
& Queer Eugene

Basics: Changing Language





Names & Pronouns

All people change the ways that they are known. Various cultures change their names for religious practices, or when a child grows up to become an adult. Some folks change their name because they feel it doesn't represent them anymore. This is true for cisgender folks (identify with the gender assigned at birth) and transgender folks (don't identify with the gender assigned at birth).

The same is true for pronoun usage.



Why should we adjust our language?

Being deadnamed/misnamed (having your old name used rather than your actual name now) is one of many microaggressions a person can experience. Not only does it not make sense to not use a person's name when referring to them, it also wears on a person—it's one of many experiences throughout the day that drags them down and hurts them.

The same is true for pronouns! Being misgendered takes a toll on a person's emotional and mental capacity. While it is weird to not recognize a person for who they are and referring to them appropriately, it also hurts them to ignore the correct language.

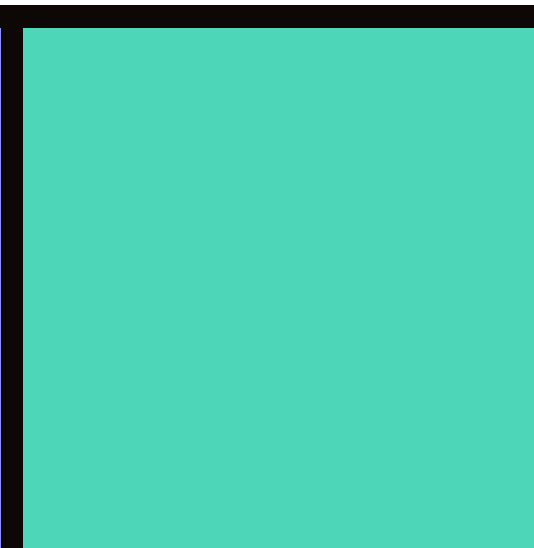
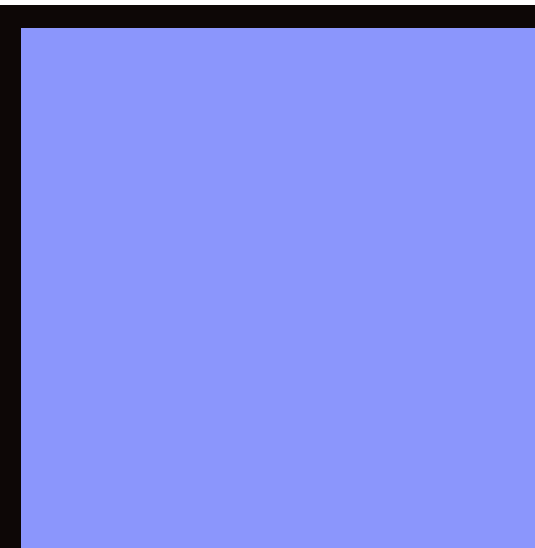
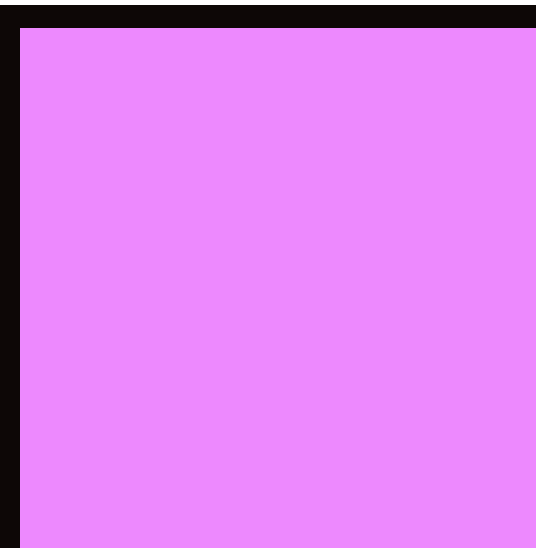
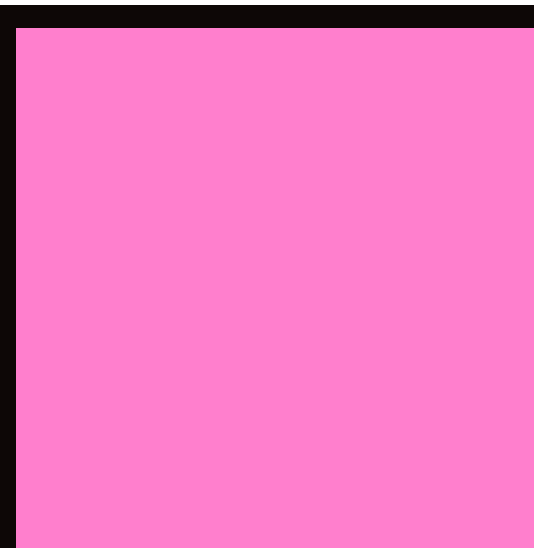
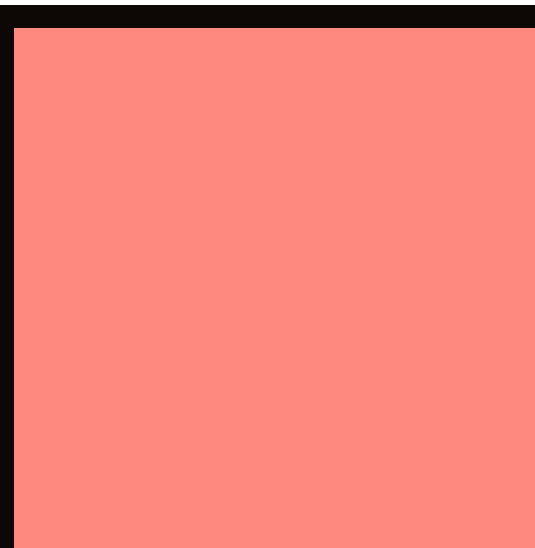
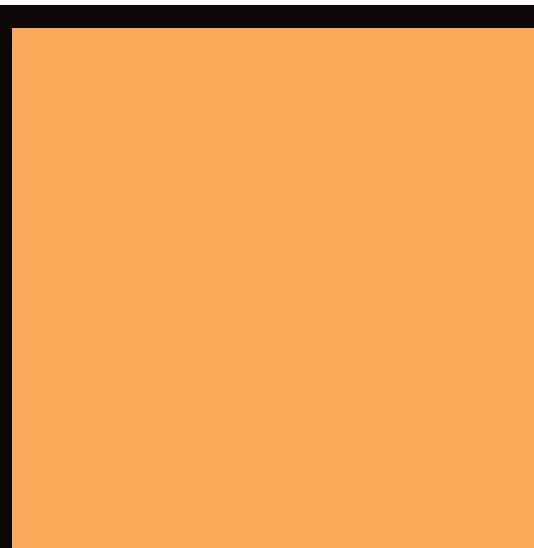
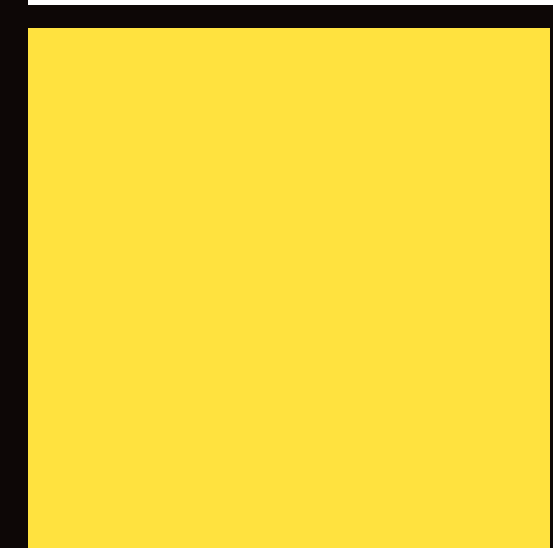
How to Practice

Practice by yourself, or with others. Use the new name or new pronouns in sentences to practice how you would say them in real situations.

“Elmo is cool. He is cool.”

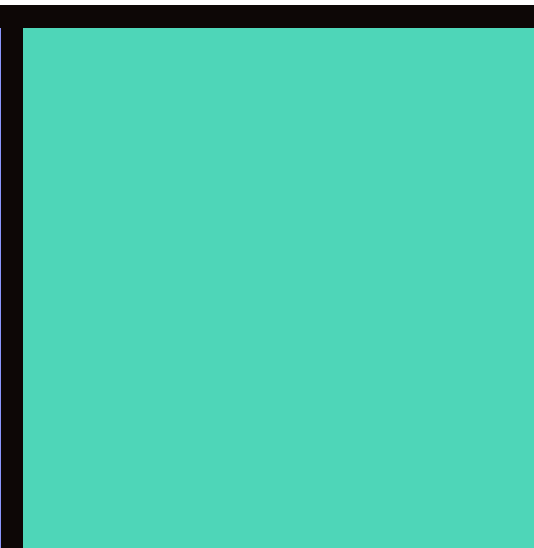
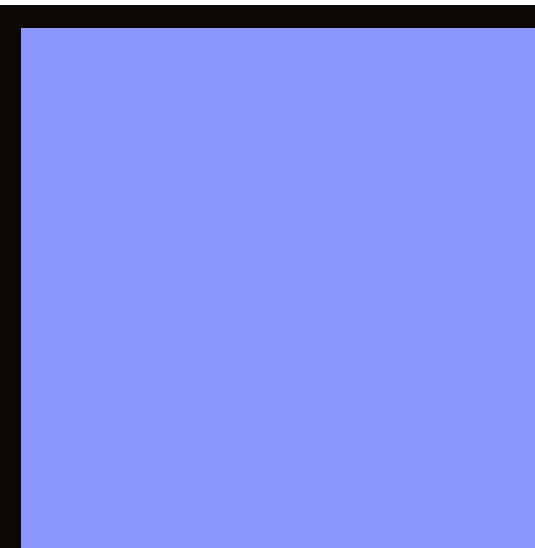
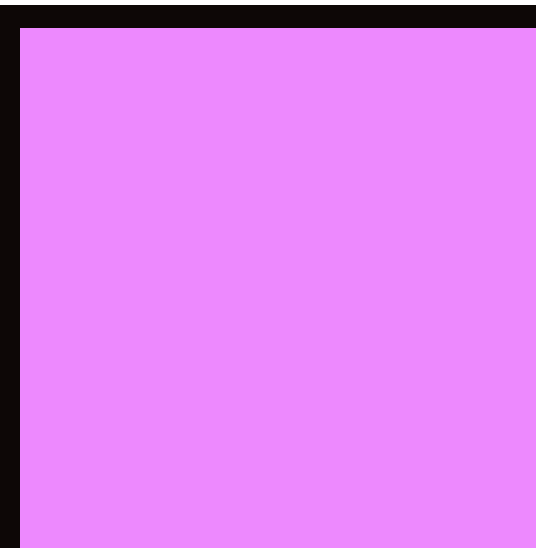
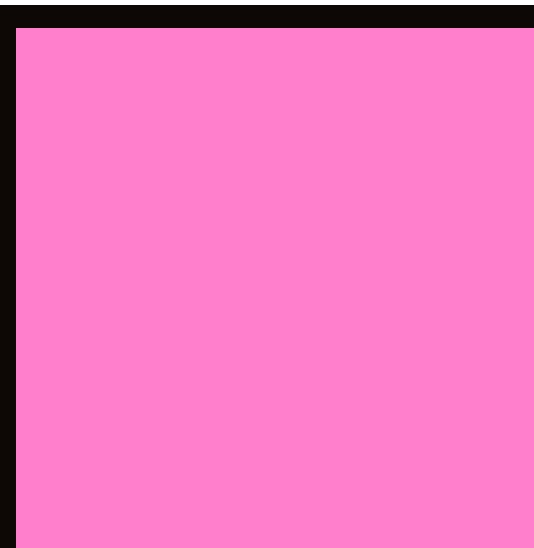
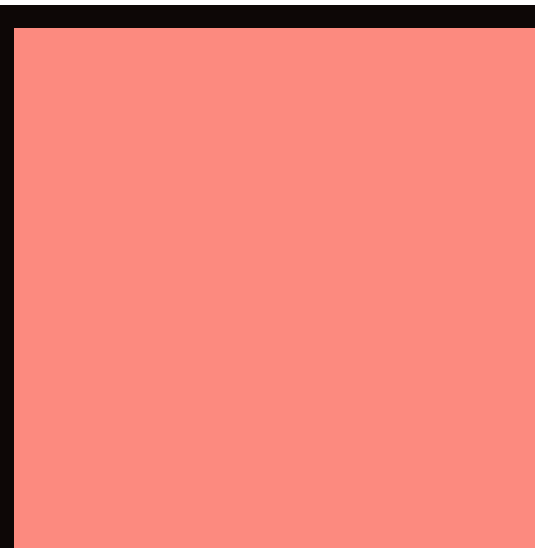
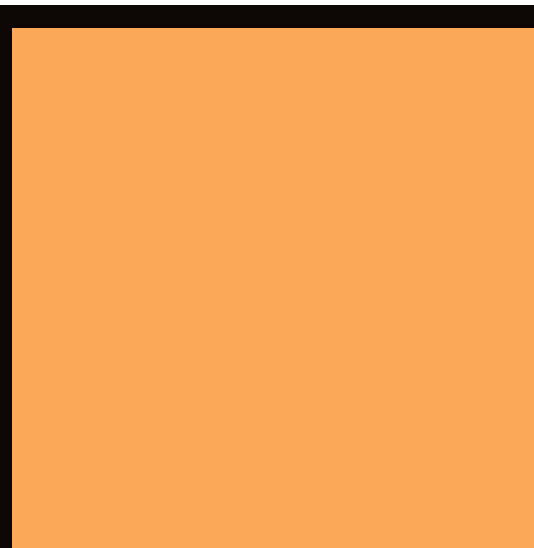
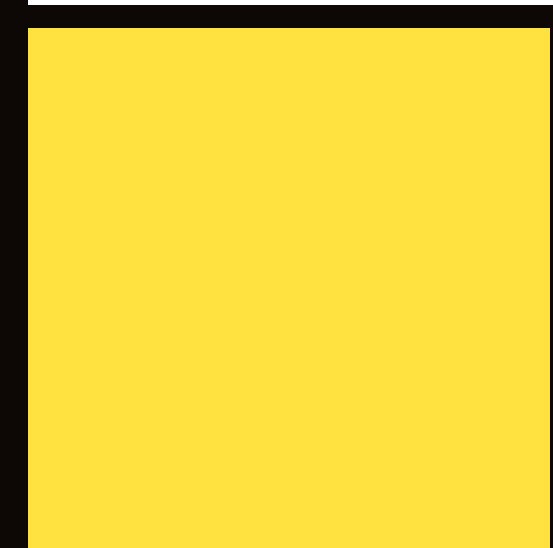
“Nala is smart. She is smart.”

“Kazi is tough. They are tough.”



Correcting Yourself

- “Yeah I was talking to her- I mean him -and he said...”
 - “Oh that’s funny, he told me- they told me -that...”
1. Notice you made the mistake
 2. Re-say what you were intending to say with the correct pronoun
 3. Move on.
 4. No apologies necessary
 5. Nothing about how hard it is- we know :)



Thanks for reading!

If you want to join a really cool group of queer educators, [sign up here](#) or email QAG@LESD.k12.or.us with questions to learn more.

And email Director@QueerEugene.org if you have any questions about these slides or other resource questions! You can also [check out our website](#) to see if any of what we offer can support you, too.