

# Terminology

Here are some helpful definitions. More terminology can be found at [outmaine.com](http://outmaine.com)



**LGBTQ+:** An umbrella term that stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer” people. The Q can also stand for questioning. LGBTQIA is another common version of this acronym, one that includes letters for intersex and asexuality.

**Gay:** 1. A person who experiences romantic, emotional, and/or sexual attraction to people of the same gender as themselves.  
2. An umbrella term to denote something or someone as LGBTQ. This use of the word has become less common as the term queer has taken on the same meaning.

**Gender:** A social construct based on a group of emotional, behavioral, and cultural characteristics attached to a person’s sex assigned at birth. Gender has several components, including gender identity, gender expression, and gender role.

**Gender Expression:** An individual’s physical characteristics, behaviors, and presentation that intentionally or unintentionally serve as social markers of masculinity, femininity, or androgyny. Forms of gender expression include appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, and social interactions.