

CISGENDER PRIVILEGE



If I am cisgender, or am perceived as cisgender, it is highly likely that:

1. Strangers do not assume that it is okay to ask me what my genitals look like, and they certainly do not try to touch them without my consent or ask if they can see them.
2. My validity as a man, woman, and/or human is not based on how much surgery I have had or how well I conform to gender stereotypes.
3. I do not worry about lovers becoming angry, disdainful, or violent when they see my private parts.
4. I am not excluded from events or places that rely on the gender binary (“women’s only” and “men’s only” spaces) as an indicator of whether or not I can attend.
5. I don’t have to hear “Oh, so you’re really a [insert incorrect gender here]?” or “So have you had the surgery?” when someone becomes aware of my gender identity.
6. I do not have to worry about others perceiving me as being in the wrong bathroom, putting me at risk for harassment or violence each time I use a public restroom.
7. I generally do not have to worry about the gendered repercussions of being arrested (e.g.- What will happen to me if the police find out that my genitals do not look the way they think they should? Will I be detained in a cell with people who share my same gender identity?).
8. I do not have to choose between being invisible (“passing”) or being “othered” and tokenized because of my gender.
9. When I go to the gym or public pool, I can use the showers without being concerned about how others will respond.
10. I can walk through the world and generally blend in without being constantly stared at, whispered about, pointed at, or laughed at because of my gender expression.
11. It is unlikely that I would risk my health by avoiding the medical profession (out of fear that doctors might refer to me as crazy, attribute unrelated symptoms to my gender, deny me medical care, and/or call other medical professionals into the room to gawk at me).
12. If I go to the emergency room I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate medical treatment, that I will be denied medical care, or that all of my symptoms will be attributed to my gender.
13. My gender has not led me to be considered diagnosably disordered by mental health professionals.
14. I am not required to undergo extensive psychological evaluation in order to obtain necessary medical care.

15. I can be confident that people will not call me by an incorrect name or pronoun, even after they have been corrected.
16. Strangers do not ask “Yeah, but what’s your real name?”
17. I will only experience puberty once.
18. I can reasonably assume that my ability to acquire a job, rent an apartment, or secure a loan will not be denied on the basis of my gender identity/expression.
19. I am not be profiled on the street as a sex worker because of my gender expression.
20. If you have any crime committed against you, your gender expression will not be used as a justification for you’re the crime nor as a reason to coddle the perpetrators.
21. My gender is acknowledged universally, immediately, and without hesitation.
22. I can easily find role models and mentors to emulate who share my identity and express their gender in a manner that is similar to myself.
23. The media accurately depicts people of my gender in films and television, and does not solely make my identity the focus of a dramatic storyline, or the punchline for a joke.
24. No one checking my identification or driver’s license insults or glares at me because my name or sex does not match the sex they believed me to be based on my gender expression.
25. My gender identity is always listed on demographic surveys and forms.



Compiled from various resources, including: <http://new.oberlin.edu>, <http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com>, & <http://queersunited.blogspot.com>

HETEROSEXUAL PRIVILEGE



If I am heterosexual, or am perceived as heterosexual, it is highly likely that:

1. I can marry the person I love in any state or country.
2. I feel safe expressing affection toward my significant other without having to worry about hostile or violent reactions from others.
3. People don't ask why I chose my sexual orientation or why I've decided to be public about my sexual orientation.
4. Strangers do not ask me how I have sexual intercourse.
5. I am confident I will be granted immediate access to my loved one in case of accident or emergency.
6. I regularly receive public recognition and support for my romantic relationships (e.g., others congratulate me if I become engaged to be married).
7. I do not fear that if my family or friends find out about my sexual orientation there will be economic, emotional, physical or psychological consequences.
8. I was able to learn about romance, dating, and sex from movies, television, music, and other media.
9. When I come out to others about my sexual orientation they do not write it off as a phase.
10. My individual behavior does not reflect on people who identify as heterosexual.
11. I do not ever wonder whether I will be the only person in a social situation who identifies their sexual orientation as I do.
12. Others do not feel concerned that I will harm children or force them into sharing my sexual orientation.
13. I am able to share an insurance policy and file joint taxes with my significant other, thus receiving economic benefits.
14. I do not worry that others will write off how I act, dress, or talk as a byproduct of my sexuality.
15. My attraction to others is not referred to as "a lifestyle."
16. I do not worry or even have to think about whether I will be harassed, beaten, or killed because of my sexuality.
17. My children will be given texts in school that reflect the family they are being raised in and they will not be taught that my sexuality is a "perversion."
18. I can walk into any place of worship and be assured that my relationship will be supported and I will not be denounced because of my sexual orientation.

19. Making a declaration about my sexual orientation was/is unnecessary. I do not have to explain to people that I'm straight because others regularly assume heterosexuality.
20. If I have a significant other who does not have US citizenship, I can marry him/her in order for him/her to obtain citizenship so that we can live together in the US.
21. I can speak openly at work about my personal life without concerns that I might lose my job.
22. I did not grow up with games that attack my sexual orientation (ex- "smear the queer").
23. When others speak of my marriage it is not preceded by a notation about my sexual orientation (ex- "straight marriage").
24. I am not accused of having been abused or told that I am warped, perverted, or psychologically confused because of who I am attracted to.
25. I am never placed in a position where I have to defend or justify my romantic or sexual attractions because of the sex or gender of those whom I am attracted to.
26. People do not use clichés, idioms, or slurs that describe my sexual orientation in demeaning terms.
27. I am guaranteed to find sex education and safer sex literature for people who share my sexual orientation.
28. My masculinity/femininity is not challenged because of my sexual orientation
29. I can walk in public with my significant other without people doing a double-take or staring.
30. I can choose to not think politically about my sexual orientation.

Compiled from various resources, including: <http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com>, & <http://queersunited.blogspot.com>, <http://sap.mit.edu/>