

I History

0. The first recorded use of the singular they occurred in the 14th century, most certainly showing up before this period in speech.
0. In Victorian era, the masculine *he* was often used in the same way that the singular *they* is used now.
 - This use has died out since because of its obvious sexist undertones
0. Both the Chinese and Finnish languages use only one pronoun that is not for male and female

II Two usages

0. Generic- gender of the person is unknown.
 - “Did you see that? They just cut me off!”
- B. Definite- person chooses they/them as their personal pronouns.
 - “Casey was tired, so they got a coffee.”

III. Tensions- why people have problems with it.

0. Grammar
0. Gender Bias

IV. Academia late to the discussion

0. Most of the popular articles were addressing this conversation pre-2016 whereas academia has joined the conversation majorly from 2020-present.
 - There is a shift from grammar to gender in both fields.
0. APA, Chicago, and MLA all had their own responses concerning the treatment of the singular they within academic writing.