

AROMANTICISM

What is it?

An aromantic person is someone who doesn't experience romantic attraction. Examples of romantic attraction are crushes, falling in love, wanting to date somebody, and wanting to do things like kiss or cuddle. Being aromantic is an example of a romantic orientation.



This is the aromantic flag.

But this doesn't mean aromantic people are sad or lonely. They still have friends and family. And some aromantic people choose to have a queerplatonic relationship, which is a long-term committed platonic relationship. It's similar in many ways to romantic relationships, but without the romance!

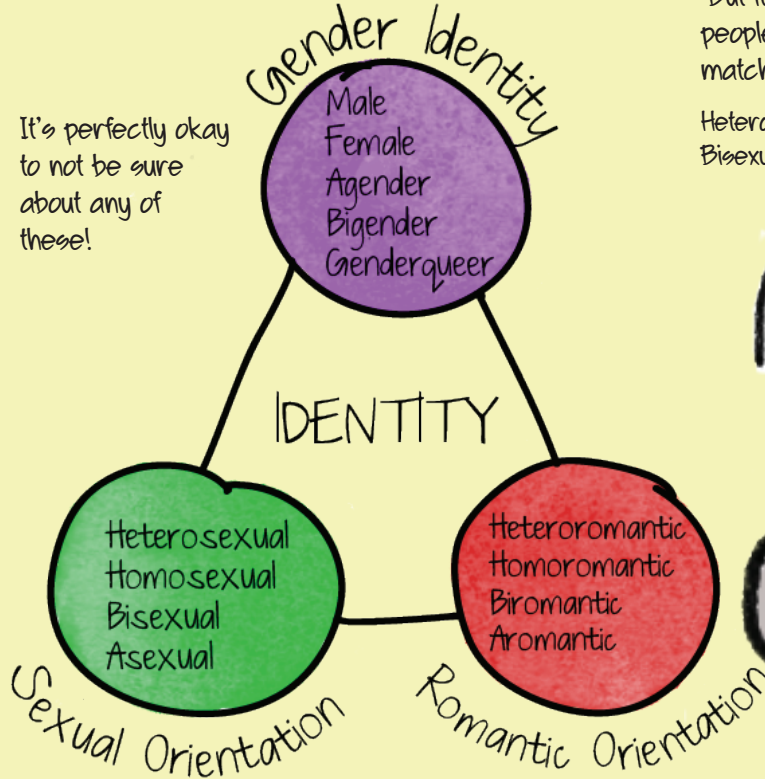
Aromantic people may not get crushes, but they can get squishes! A squish is a strong desire to be friends with someone. Romantic people can get squishes too!



ROMANTIC ORIENTATION

There are three big parts of ourselves that determine how we relate to others and want others to relate to us. These are gender identity, sexual orientation, and romantic orientation.

All three are important but separate; people can identify as any combination!



It's perfectly okay to not be sure about any of these!

Like sexual orientation, romantic orientation isn't a choice. Also, they both have to do with attraction (or the lack of it), not behavior. Someone can identify as aromantic but have been in a romantic relationship in the past.

For many people, their romantic orientation isn't something they think about because their sexual orientation and romantic orientation are the same.



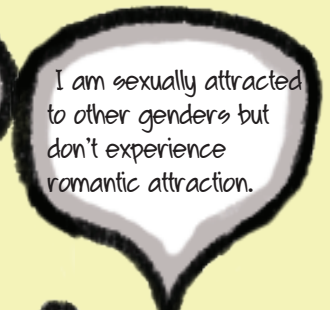
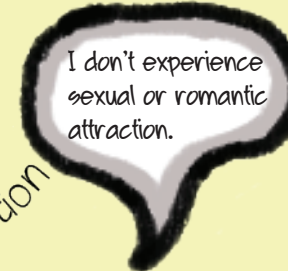
But it doesn't have to be that way, and there are people whose sexual and romantic orientation don't match up.

Heteroromantic
Bisexual



I am sexually attracted to all genders but romantically attracted only to genders other than my own.

Many aromantic people identify as asexual, but there are aromantic people who experience sexual attraction as well.



Aromantic Asexual



Aromantic Heterosexual

All of these identities are normal and healthy!

HOW TO BE A GOOD ALLY

By reading this pamphlet, you're already doing a good job by learning about aromanticism and romantic orientation. That puts you ahead of most people! But here are some other things you can do to support aromantic people in your community.

Spread awareness! The concepts of aromanticism and romantic orientation are not very well known. Take advantage of chances to educate peers on the topic and correct misconceptions.

Be inclusive in your language, and avoid saying things like, "everybody wants to get married" or "you can't be happy if you're single".

Correct other people when they say or do things that exclude aromantic people. This can also be a great opportunity to spread awareness!

RESOURCES

Here's where to go to find more information!

The National Coalition for Aromantic Visibility
<http://www.aromantic.org>

Aromantic Aardvark
<http://aromanticaardvark.tumblr.com>

Aromantic Secrets
<http://arosecret.tumblr.com>

Ask an Aromantic
<http://aromanticadvice.tumblr.com>

The Aromantics Wiki
http://aromantics.wikia.com/wiki/Aromantics_Wiki

Queerplatonic and Aromantic Advice
<http://qpadvice.tumblr.com>

Aromantic Asexuals Forums
<http://aromantics.forum-motion.net>

Aroplanes Forum
<http://aroplane.org>

The Asexuality Visibility and Education Network
<http://www.asexuality.org/>



Made by Jenna Kassnel

SOME PEOPLE
DON'T WANT
ROMANCE
(AND THAT'S
OKAY)



AN INTRODUCTION
TO
AROMANTICISM

