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# transgender, *adj.* and *n.*

Text size: A AView as: Outline | [Full entry](#)Quotations: Show all | [Hide all](#) Keywords: On | [Off](#)**Pronunciation:** Brit. /ˈtrɑːnzˈdʒɛndə/,[▶](#) /ˈtrɑːnzˈdʒɛndə/, /ˈtrɑːnsˈdʒɛndə/, /ˈtrɑːnsˈdʒɛndə/,

U.S. /ˌtrænzˈdʒɛndər/, /ˌtræn(t)sˈdʒɛndər/

**Frequency (in current use):** ●●●●●●●●**Etymology:** < [TRANS-](#) *prefix* + [GENDER](#) *n.*

## A. *adj.*

Of, relating to, or designating a person whose identity does not conform unambiguously to conventional notions of male or female gender, but combines or moves between these; transgendered.

Although often used (esp. among participants in transgender lifestyles) as a generic and inclusive term which deliberately avoids categorizations such as transsexual or transvestite, in wider use *transgender* is sometimes used synonymously with these more specific terms.

- 1974 D. CORDELL in *Rep. First National TV.TS Conf.* 16 There is a tendency among [trans-gender](#) people to encourage each other. This precludes the very careful self-analysis which must take place in everyone who is proposing to undergo this therapy.
- 1983 K. E. STUART *Uninvited Dilemma* iii. 25 Gender conditions are quite different from sexual conditions or sexual preferences. The word transsexual is somewhat misleading, because the word sexual is incorporated into the term. Perhaps the word '[transgender](#)' would have been a more suitable term.
- 1984 *News (Portsmouth)* 6 Aug. 1/4 [Transgender](#) model Bruce Laker's plans for a white wedding have been dashed.
- 1990 *Rouge* Winter 17/1 'Gender Dysphoria'..is a blanket term covering the range of [transgender](#) phenomena.
- 1996 F. M. SHAVER in B. Schissel & L. Mahood *Social Control in Canada* ix. 217 Male hustlers run less risk from on-the-job hazards than do either women or [transgender](#) prostitutes.
- 2000 *Ralph* 7 July 66/2 I assume people know I'm [transgender](#).

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## B. *n.*

Transgenderism; (now usually) a transgender person.

- 1987 *Chrysalis* 1 53 People often think that [trans-gender](#) is a rather minority and unimportant matter.
- 1988 *Stage* 4 Aug. 12/1 Theatrical [transgenders](#) now have their own magazine which, it is hoped..will..be a means through which drag artists can find jobs in the theatre.
- 1995 *Times* 15 Nov. (Interface section) 6/3 This assistant professor..started off life as a gifted but socially inadequate young man, became a woman and is now a '[transgender](#)', occupying the middle ground between the sexes.

This is a new entry (OED Third Edition, March 2003).

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1999 *Time Out N.Y.* 10 June 31/1 The airy Chelsea outpost of this West Coast chainlet offers advice on the gamut of social, religious, emotional and economic issues for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders.

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