

ASEXUALITY

AND RELATED TOPICS

Someone who is **asexual** does not feel **sexual attraction**. So an asexual person won't look at someone and think "wow, I'd like to get into their pants!" Some asexuals may find a person aesthetically attractive, but not sexually attractive. Asexuality is an orientation, not a behavioral choice like celibacy or abstinence.

Some asexuals are **repulsed** by sex (or parts of sex), and others are **indifferent**. Some asexuals may choose to have sex for various reasons (such as curiosity, desire to please their partner, or because they enjoy the sensation).

Although many people think that all asexuals are opposed to the entire idea of sex, many asexuals are extremely (safe and consensual) sex positive -- they just aren't interested in having it themselves.

Asexuality is a spectrum, and every asexual person is different. Someone may identify as **gray-A** if they are not strictly sexual or asexual. People who are gray-A may only experience sexual attraction sometimes, or the attraction might be very minimal. **Demisexual** people only experience sexual attraction to people they are very emotionally close to and they may or may not be in a romantic relationship with this person(s). Demisexuality is an orientation, not a choice, and is not the same as a person choosing not to have sex until they are in a committed relationship.

Some people are **aromantic**, meaning they do not feel romantic attraction. Aromantic people are still capable of friendship and love, but don't want to be in a romantic relationship. Some people have a **romantic orientation** that is different from their sexual orientation. Some romantic asexuals are heteroromantic, homoromantic, or biromantic. Just like sexual attraction, romantic attraction is a spectrum, and some people identify their romantic orientation to be gray or demiromantic. Because of the blurriness of many people's romantic orientations, the asexual community invented the word **queerplatonic** to refer to any sort of relationship that is more than a friendship, but in which romantic attraction is either not present or very minimal.

A common nickname for the entire asexual community is **ace**.

For more information on asexuality, visit www.asexuality.org