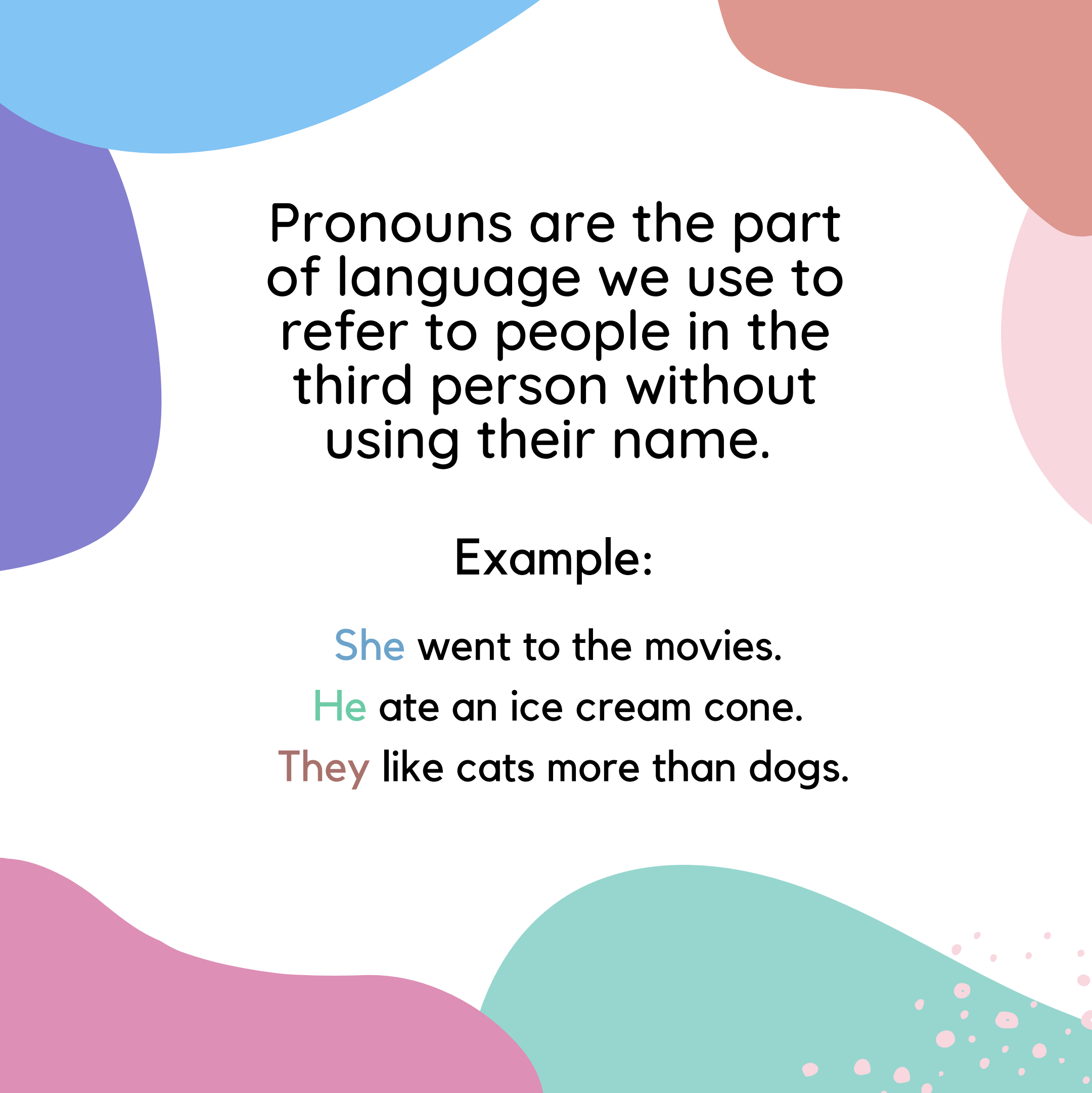


The background features several large, overlapping organic shapes in shades of blue, purple, red, pink, and teal. In the bottom right corner, there is a cluster of small, light pink dots of varying sizes.

what's a pronoun?

A quick introduction



Pronouns are the part of language we use to refer to people in the third person without using their name.

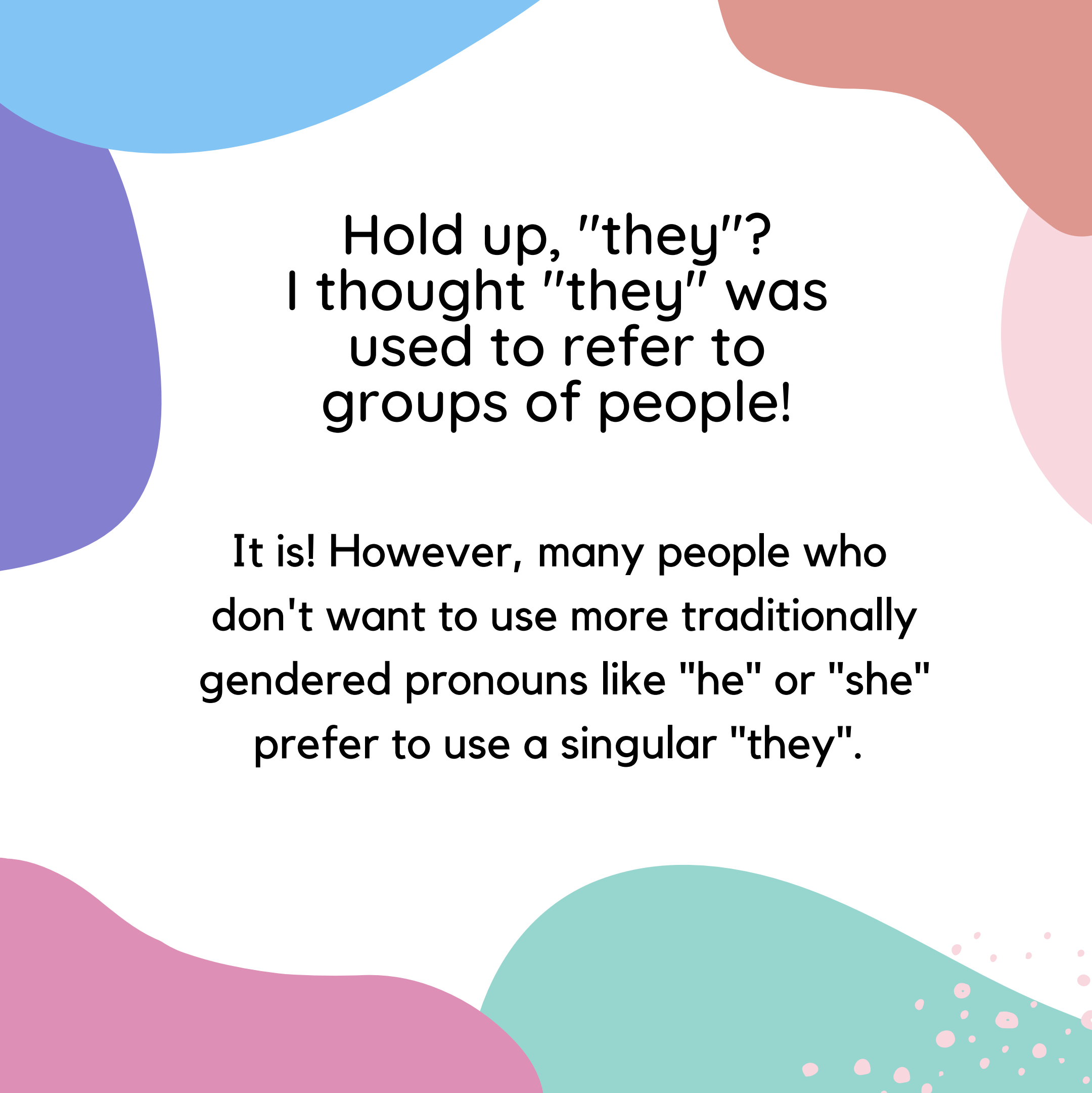
Example:

She went to the movies.

He ate an ice cream cone.


They like cats more than dogs.





Hold up, "they"?
I thought "they" was
used to refer to
groups of people!

It is! However, many people who
don't want to use more traditionally
gendered pronouns like "he" or "she"
prefer to use a singular "they".



We actually use a
singular "they" in
English all the time, but
we just don't notice it!

Example:

Who's that? **They** look worried.
Hmm. Someone left **their** phone here.
Oh! I think the phone must be **theirs**.

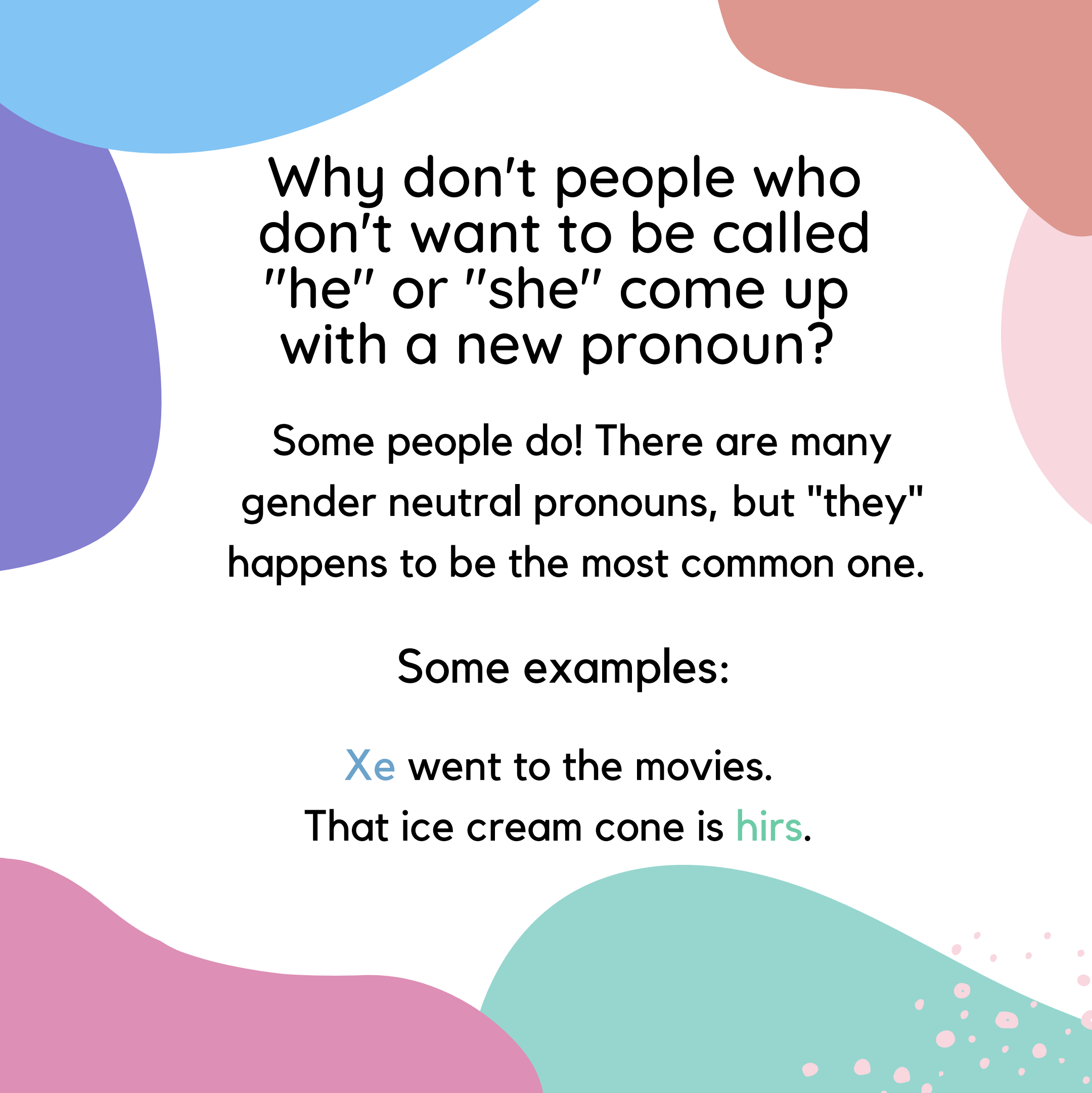


Isn't a singular "they"
grammatically inaccurate?

Actually, it isn't!

Merriam-Webster added "they" as a
singular pronoun in 2019, but we've
been using it since the 1300's.

And even if it were inaccurate, it's
more important to be considerate
than be grammatical.



Why don't people who don't want to be called "he" or "she" come up with a new pronoun?

Some people do! There are many gender neutral pronouns, but "they" happens to be the most common one.

Some examples:

Xe went to the movies.

That ice cream cone is **hirs**.

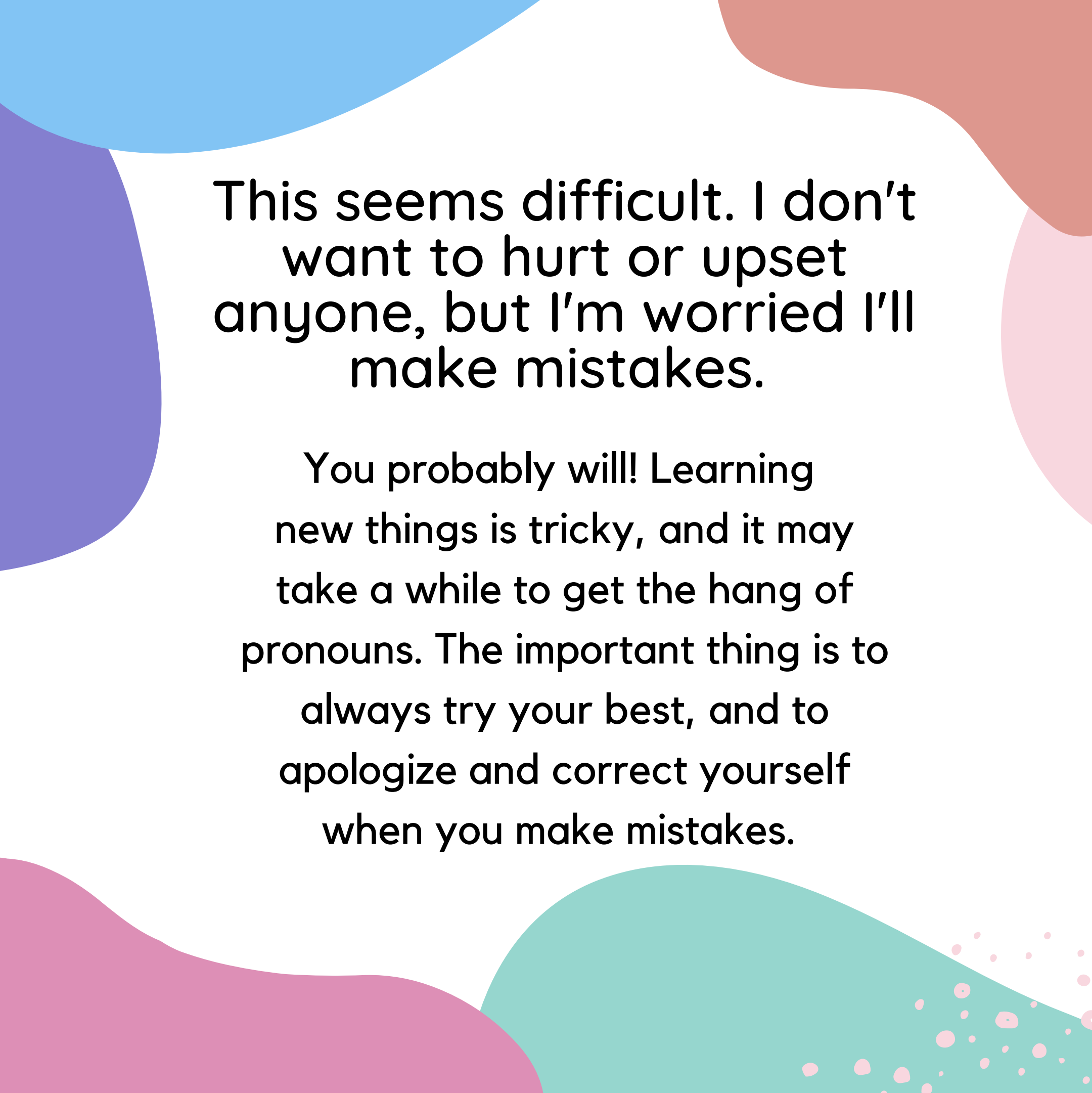




Why don't people want to be called "he" or "she" anyway?

Many non-binary or gender non-conforming people don't like traditionally gendered pronouns because they feel inaccurate, upsetting, or even painful.

It may seem like a small issue to you, but it's important to respect people's pronouns and always do your best to use them.



This seems difficult. I don't
want to hurt or upset
anyone, but I'm worried I'll
make mistakes.

You probably will! Learning
new things is tricky, and it may
take a while to get the hang of
pronouns. The important thing is to
always try your best, and to
apologize and correct yourself
when you make mistakes.



Should I start stating my pronouns?

If you want to!

If you're comfortable sharing your pronouns, stating them when introducing yourself or putting them in your email signature helps normalize talking about pronouns.

It also signals to trans and non-binary people that you're respectful.

Where can I learn more?

You can learn more about pronouns
online at www.glsen.org.

If you're a member of Neighbors
West-Northwest, you can also email
Rhys at rhys@nwnw.org, and they'll
be happy to assist you!