LGBTQ is an acronym meant to encompass a whole bunch of diverse sexualities and genders. Folks often refer to the Q (standing for “queer”*) as an umbrella term, under which live a whole bunch of identities. This is helpful because lesbian, gay, and bisexual aren’t the only marginalized sexualities, and transgender* isn’t the only gender identity. In fact, there are many more of both!

* The “Q” sometimes stands for “questioning” and “transgender” is often thought of as an umbrella term itself (sometimes abbreviated “trans”; or “trans*” in writing). Lots of asterisks, lots of exceptions, because hey – we’re talking about lots of different folks with different lived experiences to be inclusive of.