



I grew up with Madlibs (<http://www.madlibs.com/>) and after doing Trans trainings for several years decided to make a Pronoun Madlibs for folks to practice a number of things. First, fill in the blanks with proper names, family references, and pronouns that are gendered as you think the story should go. Ask yourself what clues you used to determine the gender of the two characters in the story. Then, fill in the blanks using only proper names and gender neutral pronouns (sie for he/she, hir for his/her, and hir's for possessive pronouns). This is a great way to practice using gender neutral pronouns while also raising awareness of just how gendered our communication is!

Pronoun Madlibs

So, there once was this _____ that was in love. _____
_____ loved like no other has ever loved before. For the sake of this story,
let's name _____.
_____ loved _____ and this was the purest of all loves. _____
_____ first met _____ while on a lunch break between classes. It
was love at first sight. Even love at first sight takes time to develop, hence the story, but _____
_____ knew _____ feelings for _____
instantly and _____ was equally struck by an indescribable intensity that,
to this day, has yet to be replicated.

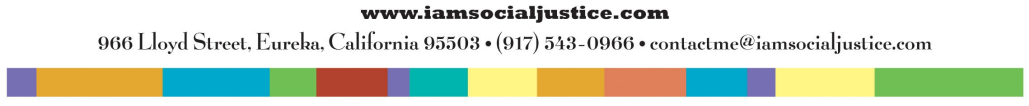
Was born in a mystery so _____ story starts on the doorstep of
what became a loving home. _____ was
hard working and affectionate while _____
_____ kind, charismatic, and a leader in the community. _____ learned
how to love and be loved by being surrounded by strong loving families, neighborhoods,





and communities. It is this upbringing that lead _____ into engineering. After years of schooling, _____ now has the opportunity to give back to communities that need meeting space, schools, housing, and other development projects.

_____ to put it simply came from money – lots of money. _____ also came from money – lots of money and that is how money works. Regardless of how the money was acquired, it seems to pass its power down while growing and shrinking over time. Decedents inherit the power, social capital, and life stories that continue the secret memberships to these upper crust secret group memberships. _____ comes from this group and has fought hard to deny this financial entitlement while also living a very sheltered life without any major challenges. Much to the shame and dismay of _____, _____ deviated from the golden path laid out before _____ and decided to go on adventures that took _____ all over the world. It is here, in face to face conversations with the outside world, that _____ realized that _____ has resources to give towards making a better world at _____ disposal. _____ just didn't have the know-how to put the money to use. Then, one fateful day, while eating an egg salad sandwich on a park bench _____ life changed forever.





Little did _____ know that _____ ate lunch on that same park bench every day as had _____ _____ for decades. That bench was a part of _____ family experience. So there _____ were sitting in silence eating lunch. After eating _____ sandwich _____ sighs, having forgotten dessert. _____ had a few cookies from the children’s block party bake sale and offered _____ a peanut butter cookie. It all started with dessert as all good things do of course. Ten years later, the happy couple sit celebrating the anniversary of the first building project. With _____’s brains and community connections and _____’s high roller connections and start up funds, the couple purchased, renovated, remodeled, expanded and re-opened a desperately needed health clinic and community center in _____ home neighborhood. While gentrification “saved” surrounding neighborhoods, resources were being drained away from _____ own home grown community. Together the small area was able to create jobs, reinstall neighborhood pride, support the new families, children, and the long time neighborhood residents, while bringing attention to new businesses. It was a beautiful union of skills, resources, energy, and love.

To make your own Madlibs feel free to use <http://madlibs.org/> or, as you write a story, leave blanks for key words.

