

Understanding Bias

Year 9/10, English



What is bias?

Bias is when someone unfairly favours or is against a person, group, or idea, often without realising it. It happens when we make judgments based on stereotypes or assumptions instead of facts.

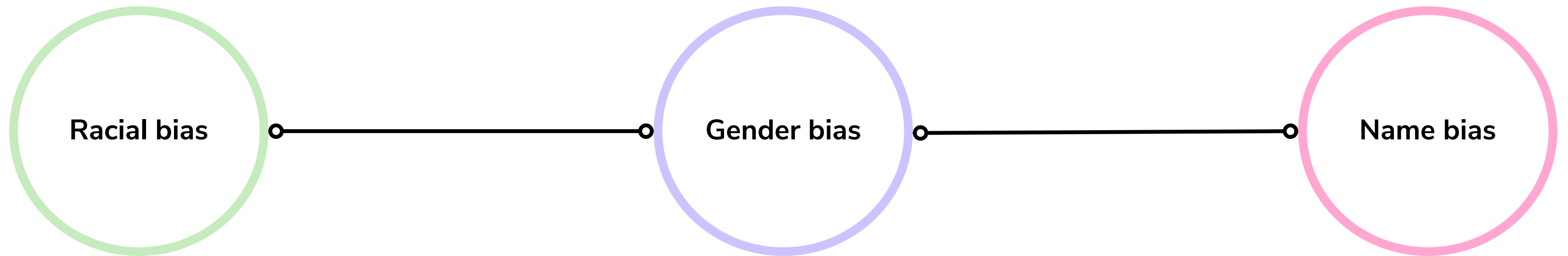
Bias can show up in different ways, like treating people differently because of their race, gender, or age, or making decisions that aren't fair.

Sometimes we're aware of our bias, but a lot of the time, it happens without us even noticing.



Types of bias

There are several common types of bias that can influence how we think, act, and make decisions, often leading to unfair or unequal treatment of others.



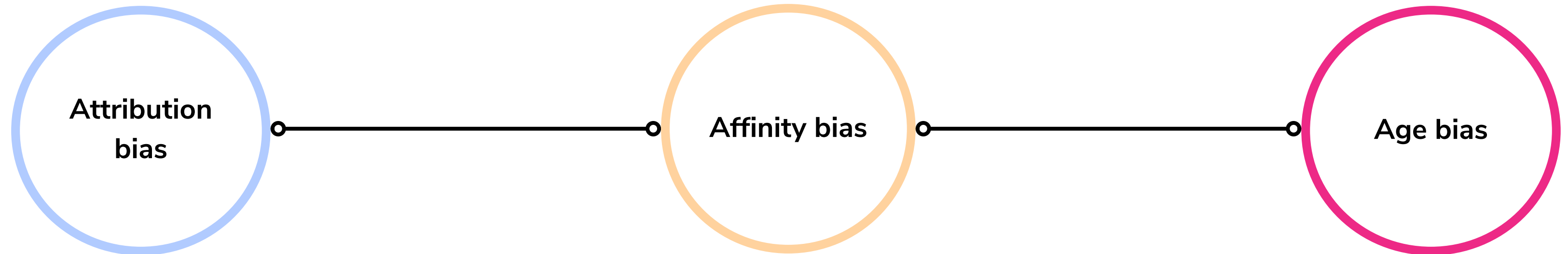
Judging someone based on their race or ethnicity. For example, assuming someone is less capable because they belong to a minority group.

Stereotyping based on gender roles. For example, assuming men are natural leaders while women are emotional.

Preferring names that sound familiar or culturally similar to one's own. For example, rejecting job applications with diverse and multicultural names.

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Overemphasising personal traits while ignoring situational factors when evaluating someone's behaviour. For example, assuming someone is lazy without considering external challenges.

Favouring people who share similar characteristics or backgrounds. For example, hiring someone because they went to the same university.

Discriminating based on age, such as assuming older people are less capable or younger people are inexperienced. For example, not giving an older person a job opportunity.

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