






Response to Charlotte Buff on emoji 12.0 candidates

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Introduction. This is intended as a response to the objection presented by Charlotte Buff against several emoji candidates in the document [L2/18-191](#).

Yawning face. While I would normally agree with Buff on saying that it would be redundant I can see many reasons why to encode it. First of all, yawning is an extremely common phenomenon not only across humans but also across all vertebrates; secondly, yawning is not only intended to represent tiredness, but also boredom, something that none of the characters cited by Buff fully comply with.

-  SLEEPY FACE: This character has a very clear Japanese bias, because the presence of a snot bubble to represent someone sleeping is primarily seen in anime and manga, and therefore it is not suitable for anybody not familiar with that association (in fact many confuse the snot bubble with a tear). It also represents someone currently sleeping and not about to sleep, so the name is a misnomer.
-  SLEEPING FACE: This character while technically representing the same as the last, does in fact use a more universally accepted glyph. But again, this represents someone currently sleeping and not about to. It is worth nothing that if it wasn't due to compatibility constraints, a better way to obtain this glyph would have been using a ZWJ sequence including the "sleeping symbol".
-  TIRED FACE: This character represents someone who is exhausted or fed up, people may use it to represent themselves after doing a lot of work, or when they feel overwhelmed and want to stop, a much more different feeling than being bored or about to go to sleep.
-  WEARY FACE: This face means and looks almost the same as the last one, and so should have not been encoded separately unless it was done out of compatibility (which I assume it was). For this reason, the same argument I applied to the "tired face" applies to this one too.
-  SLEEPING SYMBOL: Unlike the sleeping face, this one is more abstract, representing the concept of sleep itself. Few people around the world do not recognize the association between the sequence of Latin letters and sleep, however everybody uses it to represent the current state of being sleep, not of about going to sleep. Some people may use this or "sleeping face" to represent boredom, but it may be the case, that it is just because they have no better alternative currently available.

Yawning face can also have a more positive connotation, like to express that you are not impressed with what you are being presented with. Example:

"I didn't get a single F this semester! I'm so proud!"

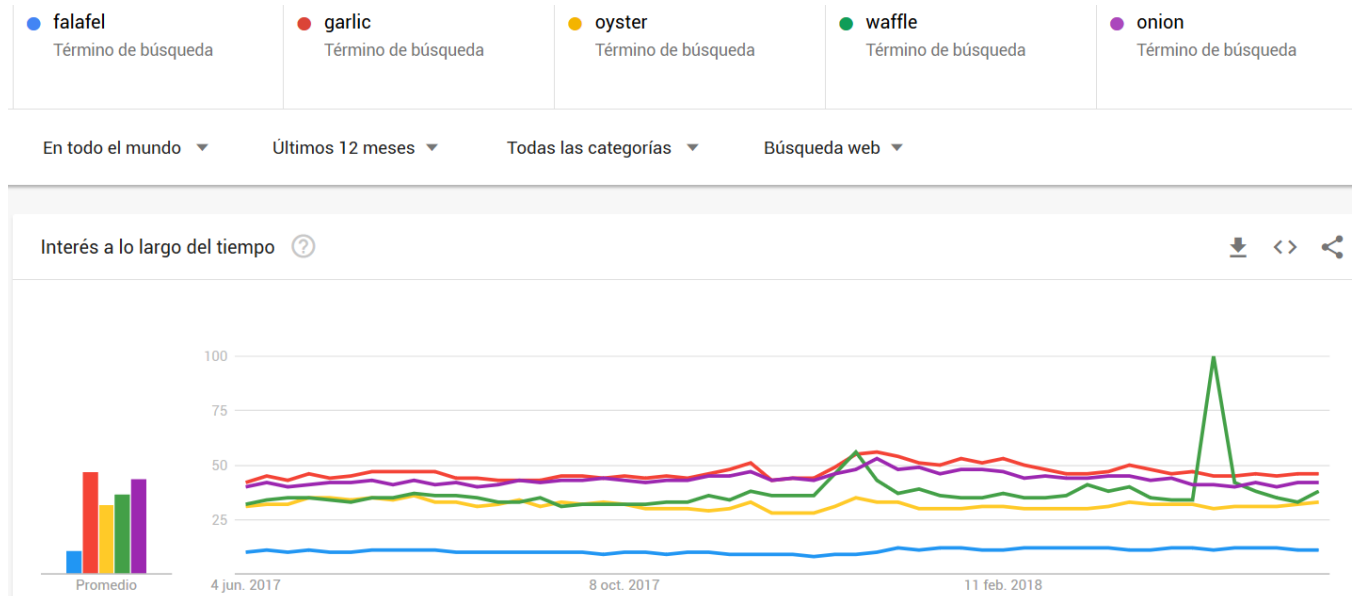
"(yawning face) I get pure A's all the time."

Service animal vest. I agree 100% with Buff on this one.

Oyster. I would say that categorizing an oyster as food and removing the association with pearls would solve the problems that Buff mentions. To fill the niche that will unavoidably form, I propose to encode a PEARL emoji, that can be used in ZWJ sequences with the oyster. It would also serve to illustrate idioms, such as "clutching your pearls".

Falafel. I disagree that this emoji should have been accepted at all, because there isn't a canonical way to represent this food item (in other words, it lacks visual distinctiveness), so it is no wonder that it was assigned the "meatball" keyword by mistake.

A quick search comparing the falafel to other food candidates, reveals that it is significantly less popular than any of them.



Ice cube. First of all, I disagree with Buff on the fact that the change was made "out of thin air without justification", what was clearly intended here, was to abstract the concept of an iceberg to a more familiar object so it could be applied to more things. An ice cube is especially useful when one wants to indicate that their drink includes or does not include ice, so in that sense it would be more popular than an iceberg.

It is also worth noting that the characters Buff mentions, like SNOWFLAKE, SNOWMAN and CLOUD WITH SNOW, represent snow, which is very different from ice; for instance, one can play with friends throwing snowballs, but not ice balls; one can skate on ice but not on snow, one can walk outside while it is snowing, but may face more difficulty while it is hailing. FREEZING FACE is not meant to represent either ice or snow but to communicate that one is feeling cold; while one can argue that encoding the ice cube first and then encoding the freezing face through ZWJ would have been more efficient, it is too late to rescind the approval of that character.

Furthermore, it is not necessary for it to represent water ice; it may represent the solid state of many substances that must be cooled too, like carbon dioxide, also known as "dry ice".

With that said, an ice cube does not fulfill many of the associations we may have with icebergs. An iceberg is deeply associated with the effects of global warming and with the habitat of many creatures, like penguins and polar bears; an ice cube simply does not convey that due to its size. Furthermore, icebergs are known to have the majority of their mass hidden underwater, and so they are used in analogies where what we perceive is only a small amount than what is truly out there, like the conscious vs the unconscious or dark matter vs regular matter.

With that I conclude that we should encode both an ice cube and an iceberg.

Stethoscope. A stethoscope, does not need to be associated with a medical context. It could be used to denote that one must hear more closely (similar to the MAGNIFYING GLASS but for hearing). Or it may serve to represent the practice of pregnant women of hearing their unborn using one; a practice that has become obsolete in medical contexts.

The rest. I agree with Buff on her observation of the rest of the candidates, specially with the colored squares and circles. I will add that I made the proposal for the white heart and I mentioned that other possible candidates were: LIGHT BLUE HEART (that has problems with implementations that already use a light blue glyph) to complete the set of all colors of the rainbow, a GRAY HEART to represent depression, and a PINK HEART to harmonize with other heart like symbols and represent femininity. It begs the question of who in their right mind would propose a BROWN HEART? It has no symbolic meaning associated with it, and the color itself is used to represent feces or grizzlies (it would be way to over specific to qualify).

Ringed Planet. While Charlotte Buff did not mention this candidate (or the swimsuit), I have my personal opposition to it. First off, a ringed planet is not used symbolically in any context that I know off, this symbol would only be useful to represent Saturn. Secondly, if the intent was to represent Saturn then a much more efficient alternative was proposed already, and that is to use the symbols of the planets in a ZWJ sequence with the GLOBE WITH MERIDIANS. This solution includes more solar system bodies while reducing the encoded character count.

This character should be removed from the list.

One-piece swimsuit. I have no problem with this character, except that the current appearance is more typical for feminine swimsuits, while many male style swimsuits cover more of the leg and are not shaped with thin waists.



There is however a third style, that has small sleeves that seems to be used by both genders

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This style also has the advantage that it fully protects the shoulders against sunburn (an especially vulnerable part). I suggest changing the glyph to this style and offering users the first two others by a ZWJ mechanism with male and female signs. Using a non-human as a gender base would be unprecedented but, changing the glyph should be done independent of that.