

Proposal for MIRROR Emoji

Submitted by: Theo Schear, LaTurbo Avedon, and Jennifer 8. Lee of Emojination.

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Emoji Name: Mirror

Reference Emoji: HAMBURGER, SCISSORS, GOBLIN

Sort location: Category: Household

We suggest that the MIRROR emoji appear after RAZOR, as it implies grooming.



Credit: LaTurbo Avedon. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal.

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of MIRROR to the Unicode emoji character library.

The MIRROR, an object that reflects light in such a way that preserves many or most of the detailed physical characteristics of the original light, represents a ubiquitous material, human tool and a symbol for the concept of “reflection.” The proposed emoji designs for MIRROR is based on classic wall and handheld mirrors. Although the physical object is a universal tool found in households worldwide, we expect the MIRROR emoji to be used in a variety of non-literal ways as well.

We do not have a strong position on the visual representation of MIRROR, but believe it should exist in some form to fill semantic gaps inside the emoji set..

Images

We are offering six versions of a MIRROR emoji, but we have no preference as to which one is adopted.

Introduction

It would be difficult to overstate the global prominence of the mirror, a reflective material that can be found in many forms. The first use of mirrors by humans were probably pools of still water or water collected in a vessel.



Narcissus by Caravaggio, painted circa 1597–1599

The earliest manufactured mirrors were pieces of polished stone such as obsidian, a naturally occurring volcanic glass. In modern times, the mirror substrate is shaped, polished and cleaned, and is then coated. Glass mirrors are most often coated with silver or aluminium, implemented by a series of coatings. Mirrors are most commonly used for personal grooming, safety and easier viewing (e.g. rear-view mirrors),

televisions, projectors, telescopes, solar power, architecture, and entertainment (disco balls, hall of mirrors, kaleidoscopes, etc).¹



Jan van Eyck. *Giovanni Arnolfini and His Wife (the Arnolfini Portrait)*. 1434. The National Gallery, London.
Diego Velazquez. *Las Meninas (the Maids of Honor)*. 1656. Madrid, Museo Nacional del Prado.

Mirrors in the virtual world have already been subject to significant critical theory. Tom Boellstorff, an anthropologist, writing of time spent in the online virtual world Second Life, was quick to remark about the superfluous replication of corporeal fixtures in virtual environments. Things like plumbing, refrigeration and mirrors do not serve a real purpose outside of emulating physical spaces as we know them. Still, mirrors would hang inside of cyber homes and residences, although these mirrors could not be programmed to fully reflect the spaces they were placed in. Scripts and other kluges are often used to suggest reflection in virtual mirrors and other reflective objects, but the mirror as we know it is sure to take on new forms and meanings as we integrate ourselves more closely with the virtual. Our early attempts to render mirrors represent a tiny attempt by users to carry over an important symbol from one world of existence to another.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirror>



LaTurbo Avedon, Club Rothko Save 04 (Mirror), 2017

As a non-literal symbol, we expect the MIRROR emoji would be used to imply that communication is being bounced back like a reflection, or as a gender-neutral cosmetic symbol, or to accompany a “mirror selfie”, which is a very common type of social media image.

Names

CLDR short name

Recommended name: mirror

CLDR keywords

Recommended keywords: reflection | reflector | speculum

Selection Factors Inclusion

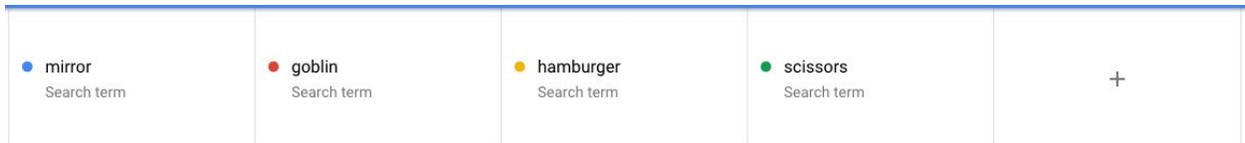
A. Compatibility

While there have been many requests for a MIRROR emoji, most popular messaging services have not included a mirror emoji yet. This proposal seeks to rectify that.

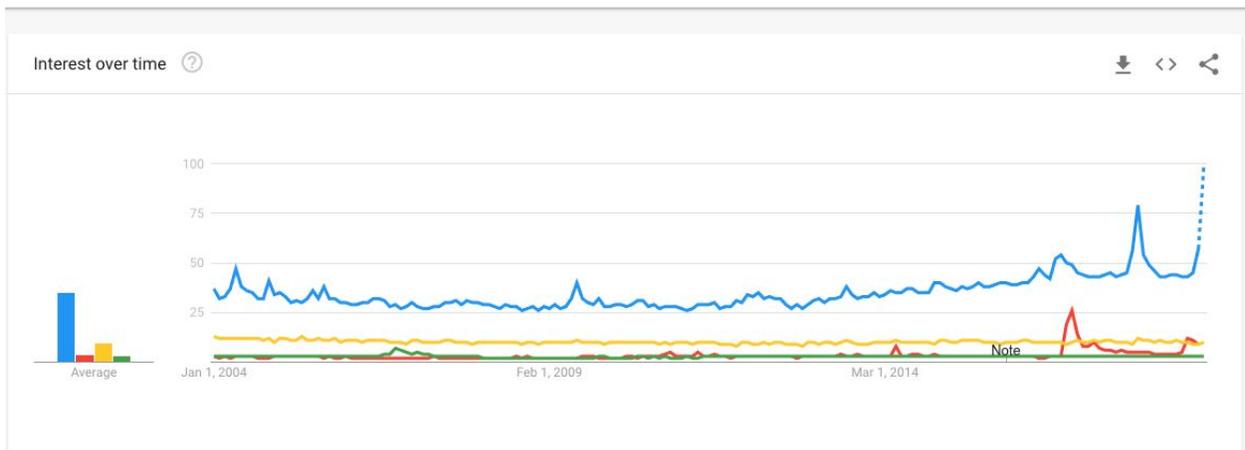
B. Expected Usage Level

B1. Frequency

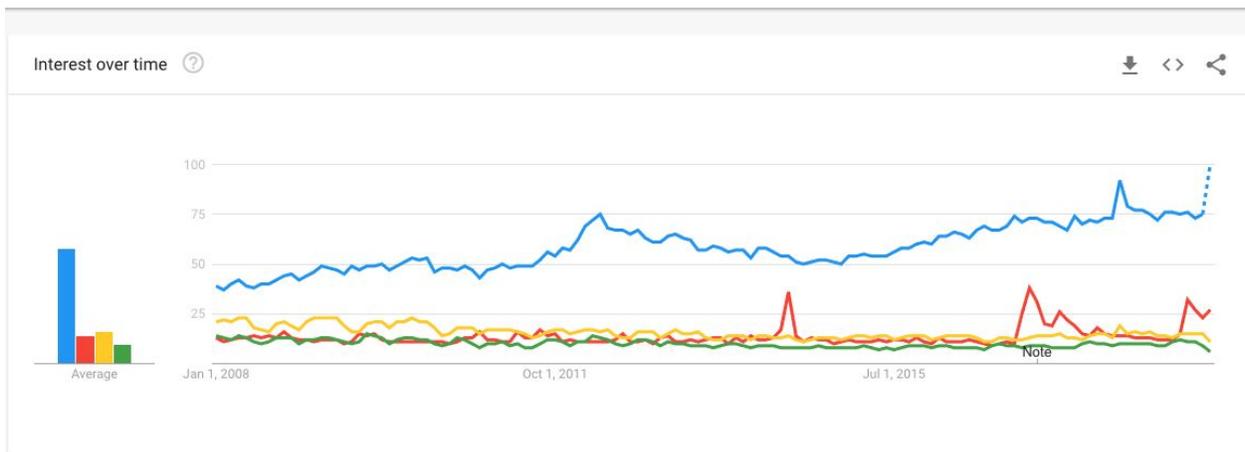
The following Google Trends data shows that usage of the term "mirror" has more results than reference emoji such as "hamburger" and "scissors" and "goblin" in both web and image search:



Worldwide ▾ 2004 - present ▾ All categories ▾ Web Search ▾



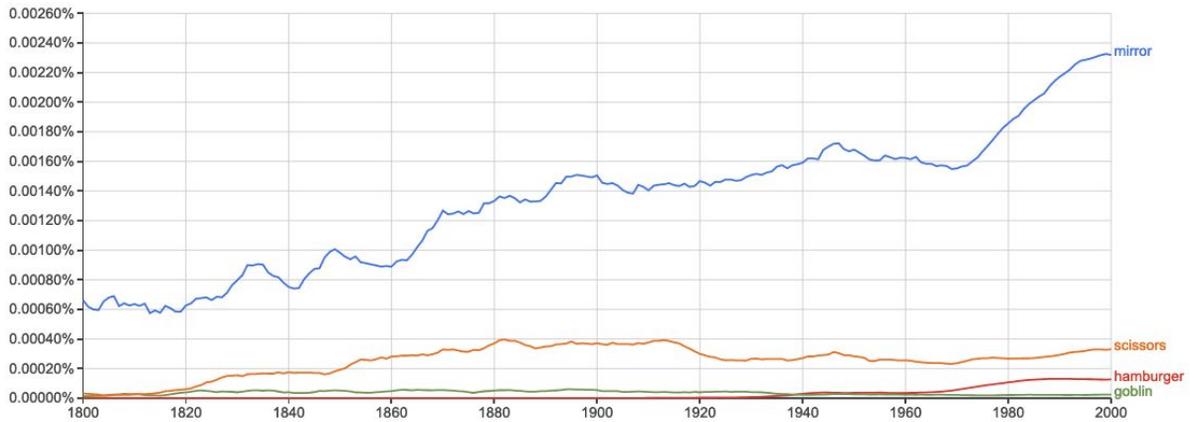
Worldwide ▾ 2008 - present ▾ All categories ▾ Image Search ▾



Google Ngram also demonstrates the historic strength of “mirror” orders of magnitude above “hamburger”, “goblin” and “scissors”:

Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases: case-insensitive
between and from the corpus with smoothing of [Search lots of books](#)



In a regular Google Search, “mirror” delivers many more results than “hamburger”, “goblin” and “scissors”:

The first screenshot shows a Google search for 'mirror'. The search bar contains 'mirror' and the search button is visible. Below the search bar, the 'All' tab is selected, and the results are displayed as 'About 1,880,000,000 results (0.52 seconds)'. The second screenshot shows a Google search for 'goblin'. The search bar contains 'goblin' and the search button is visible. Below the search bar, the 'All' tab is selected, and the results are displayed as 'About 96,400,000 results (0.64 seconds)'. Both screenshots show the Google logo and navigation tabs like 'Shopping', 'Images', 'Videos', 'News', 'More', 'Settings', and 'Tools'.



hamburger

All Maps Images News Shopping More Settings Tools

About 306,000,000 results (0.69 seconds)



scissors

All Images Shopping Videos News More Settings Tools

About 237,000,000 results (0.43 seconds)

“Mirror” also tops all three reference emoji in a regular Bing Search:



mirror

All Images Videos Maps News Shopping | My saves

35,000,000 Results Any time ▾



goblin

All Images Videos Maps News Shopping | My saves

18,500,000 Results Any time ▾



scissors



All Shopping Images Videos Maps News | My saves

7-20 Of 25,000,000 Results Any time



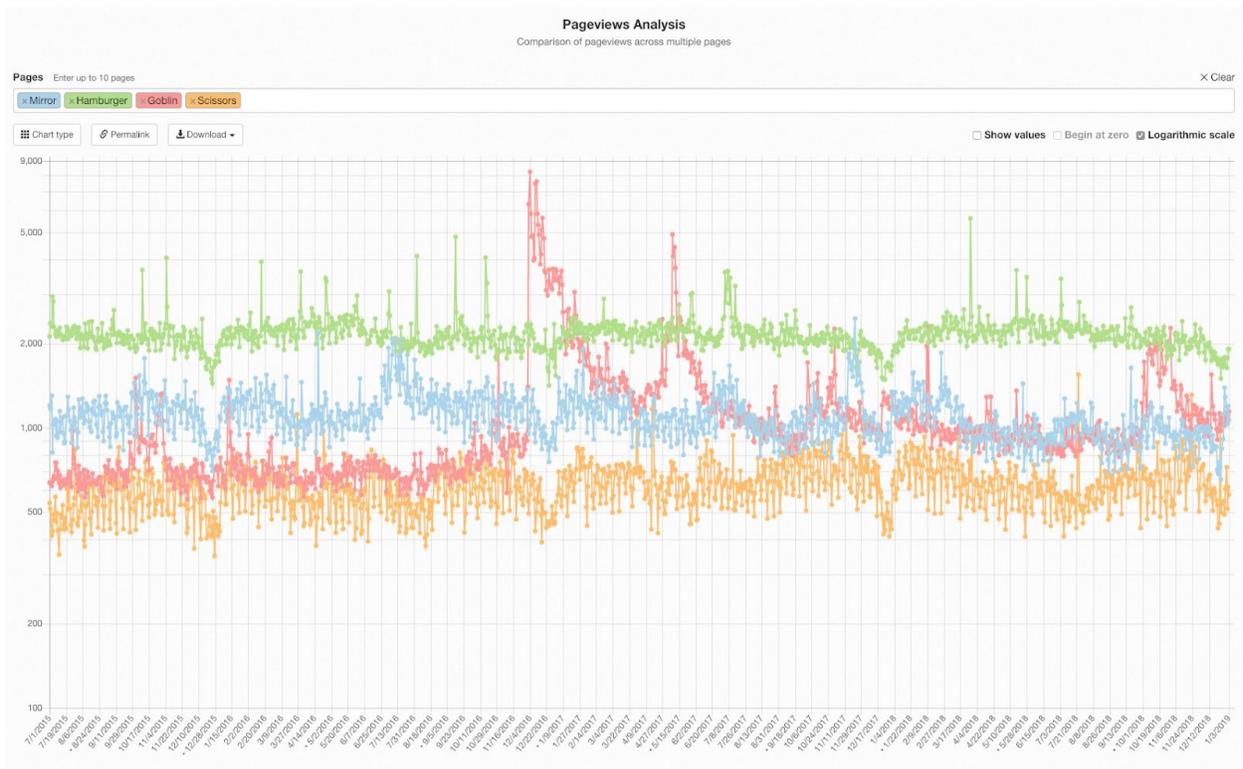
hamburger



All Images Videos Maps News Shopping | My saves

32,500,000 Results Any time

Wikipedia Pageviews Analysis shows that “mirror” is commensurate with all three reference emoji as well:



B2. Multiple Usages

We expect the MIRROR emoji would be used in several non-literal ways including:

- Getting ready, a gender-neutral cosmetic symbol.
- Reflection, bouncing the communication back to the sender.
- Mirror selfies, to accompany a very common type of social media image.
- Vanity, to communicate that you're looking at yourself.

B3. Use in Sequences

Below are examples of the MIRROR emoji as a frame or modifier:

1. Getting ready: "hold on I'm still getting ready 🪞"
2. Reflection: "uhh... that's hypocritical 🪞"
3. Mirror selfie: "I love 🪞s"
4. Vanity: "somebody looks good today 🪞"

C. Image Distinctiveness

The existing emoji most similar in appearance is the FOG emoji (🌫️), and perhaps also the COMPUTER DISC (💿) due to its reflective surface. However, we believe that neither of these would be confused with the MIRROR emoji.

D. Completeness

The MIRROR would be a welcome addition to the existing set of cosmetic and household objects.

E. Frequently Requested

Below is a sample of requests for a MIRROR emoji on Twitter:



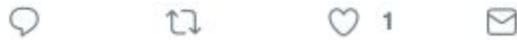
rosie 🏳️‍🌈 @dopaminegcf · 26 Sep 2015

MIRROR *INSERT **MIRROR EMOJI** HERE BECAUSE I DONT HAVE ONE 😂 OR I CANT FIND IT 😂*



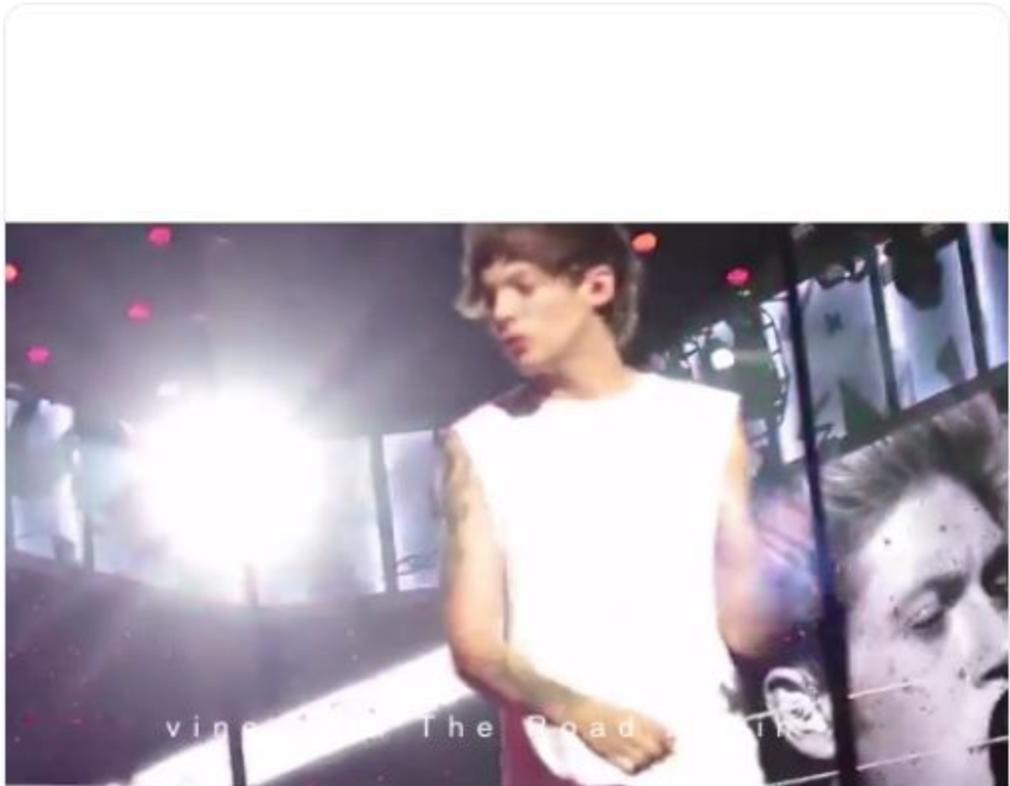
NAIB @Eeeyour · 31 May 2018

Twitter is incomplete without a "mirror" emoji coz' replying to some tweets I really need one



Iron Clad Larrie 🧔 @1D_Beards · 28 Feb 2015

why theres no **mirror emoji** 🧔👉👈👉👈



0:06

off the road's post on Vine

why theres no mirror emoji

[View on Vine](#)



TM @earthtotiff · 11h

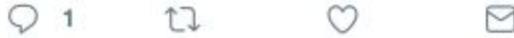
where is the **mirror emoji**



Mdee Da Saboteur @Mdee107 · 29 Dec 2018

Replying to [@RachelleTob](#) [@BigDaddyLiberty](#)

Does Twitter have a **mirror emoji**? 🙄🙄



youngbich @youngbich1 · 28 Dec 2018

Replying to [@Sosa_RL](#)

Wait where's the **mirror emoji**



queen tea @ARCTICSPADES · 26 Dec 2018



mirror emoji



soft hannah @vintagekisssy · 23 Oct 2018

Replying to [@CrystaRose_](#) [@twokissys](#)

yeah i looked super hard but honestly could not see a **mirror emoji**



André Ouellette @AndreKrat · 20 Oct 2018

Day 20 - Breakable. 🕸🔍 (Because there isn't a haunted **mirror emoji**)

[#inktober](#) [#notinktober](#)





Elsie Godwin @ELSIEISY · 19 Oct 2018

There should be a **mirror emoji**. So when anyone is being a hypocrite, I can just send the emoji and face front. No time for plenty talk 😂😂😂

🗨️ 8 ❤️ 40 ✉️



DeeDee Dynamite the TMZ of Soaps @TMZDeeDee · 10 Jul 2018

Where is the trash emoji? And the **mirror emoji** so Hope can take a look in one because Rafe is t s knight in shining armor, either... 😏 #Days



KIMBERLY @4KimmieBee

First emoji that comes to mind when you see this scene #days

🗨️ 1 🔄 3 ❤️ 11 ✉️



Kyle David Bennett @kyle_d_bennett · 14 Jun 2018

Soooo, Calvinists (rightly) talk a lot about the third use of the law. But nowadays perhaps we need to remember that there's a first use of the law.

<<insert **mirror emoji**>>



ABC News Politics @ABCPolitics

Asked about biblical justification for separating children from parents, Press Sec. Sanders says, "It is very biblical to enforce the law." abcn.ws/2JCxbcC

🗨️ 🔄 4 ✉️



Lord A Leaping Graydon @LordGraydon · 22 Mar 2018

Replying to @DailyDex @cat_binky and 34 others

Mine are 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷. I can only do 5 Dex @DailyDex I can not find a **mirror emoji** 😂😂😂😂😂

I nominate @clawdiathecat @pawshathecat @PincyCat @JoyOfCats @TobiasandJasper @MisterShinto @TheRealOtisFuzz @Mellow_Fello @JoviLifer @Tipsy_Gypsy @PJSM206

🗨️ 6 🔄 10 ✉️



cindigreendown @cindigreendown · 9 Jul 2017

Need a **mirror emoji**



Kammy @kammpup · 3 Oct 2018

Replying to @wobblesbabbles

There's only one person you know that can fix it...

...

Hold on... 🤔

...

Just a minute ...

Dang, there's no "**mirror**" emoji I can find...

Just imagine I did a **mirror emoji** and held it up for you...

Maybe you could use the reflective surface of these sunglasses? 🕶️





pumpkin @agraay17 · 1 Jan 2018

Is there a **mirror emoji**



1 8



Eric Lesh @EDLesh · 29 Mar 2017

When will they develop a '**mirror**' emoji to share with the dark money thugs at @judicialnetwork?

Director Carrie Severino at day:

have decided to engage in an men whose approach to publi supporters who value private issue to support the confirmati port because of their commit

Ashley Killough @KilloughCNN

Judicial Crisis Networks calls Schumer et al "glorified thugs" ahead of Schumer presser on dark money re: Gorsuch

2



DanielOwenOfficial @DanielOwenOff · 4 Feb 2017

📱 + 🧑 + **mirror emoji** + bathroom emoji = 🙌 🙄 | Tweet a selfie of you 🙌 😊



💬 26 🔄 5 ❤️ 55 ✉️



bette depravis @veroniraptor · 17 Nov 2016

concept: **mirror emoji** that hooks up to your front camera to act like a tiny mirror

💬 🔄 ❤️ 8 ✉️



PVRIS Daily @PVRISdaily · 17 Jul 2016

Replying to @PVRISdaily

There's no **mirror emoji**, dissappointed.

💬 🔄 5 ❤️ 25 ✉️



isa @isabuur · 12 Jun 2016

Is there a **mirror emoji** and what does it/ would it look like

💬 🔄 ❤️ 5 ✉️



Tim Watts MP 🇧🇷 @TimWattsMP · 29 May 2016

So I can't find a **mirror emoji**..



Goosey Mane @Spooky_Goose · 13 May 2016



👻 Why isn't there a **mirror emoji** 🙄



Matt Johnson @mrjumd · 11 Apr 2016



This presentation IS gonna be dope [#transingCMU](#) 🗣️ (sorry, no **mirror emoji**)





Andy Richter  @AndyRichter · 28 Apr 2015



Replying to @JennyPentland

@JennyPentland is there a **mirror emoji** to bounce it right back at you?



 **Nellie Killian**  @nelliekillian · 22 Apr 2015



There should be a **mirror emoji** & one of a person looking in a mirror. Also: an orchestra conductor. Thought about it & those are the 3 I need



@yourboyhugo · 28 Feb 2015



why theres no **mirror emoji** (Vine by On The Road Again)

vine.co/v/O2PEQrYgzLg



MATT KING  @MatrKing · 26 Feb 2015



dayum somebody is lookin' beautiful today

[**mirror emoji**]



 **paigepie**  @paigemackenzi_ · 21 Feb 2015



Hate me if you must, but The Californians SNL skits always make me laugh.
(where's the **mirror emoji**)





Crystal Fitzgerald @thequeenofcode_ · 5 Jan 2015

Self Love. 😊❤️📱 (there's no **mirror emoji**??!!) #selflove #beautyandthebay #badassbeautymantra [instagram.com/p/xe_OVjmdw/](https://www.instagram.com/p/xe_OVjmdw/)



Danielle @danilyle · 30 Dec 2014

There's no **mirror emoji** and yet there's this french horn 🍻



5sos/hv @pearlhemmingz · 17 Dec 2014

Replying to @_raaaaven

@_raaaaven vain vain vain (WHY IS THERE NO **MIRROR EMOJI**)



Michael Koziarski @nzkoz · 29 Nov 2014

Replying to @szechuan

@szechuan there's no **mirror emoji**



lila @liaaaa_c · 8 Oct 2014

I want a **mirror emoji**





Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

The mirror is a universal concept found frequently throughout human life.

G. Open Ended

There would be no obvious vacancies in either cosmetics or objects with the addition of the mirror emoji.

H. Already Representable

There are no emoji that specifically represent a mirror or reflection. The closest in one sense would be the SELFIE emoji (👤), but only for that potential use of MIRROR emoji.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

The mirror cannot be trademarked because it is a universal object/idea.

J. Transient

Mirrors will never cease to exist in some form.

K. Faulty Comparison

There is nothing to compare to the mirror.

Sort location

Category: symbol

We suggest that the MIRROR emoji appear among the TELESCOPE and MICROSCOPE in the objects section.

Other Information

N/A

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Author Bios

Theo Schear (tschear@gmail.com) is a vain loser who often stares into the mirror pondering whether his reflection could be represented by a cute symbol on his device.

LaTurbo Avedon (laturboavedon@gmail.com) is a digital artist and avatar, known for their contributions to the world of virtual art and Simulism. While a virtual mirror can't reveal the person that uses it as an emoji, Avedon proposes the emoji as a recognizable and universal symbol of reflection.

Jennifer 8. Lee (jenny@emojination.org) is a big fan of the line “Mirror, mirror on the wall” and was shocked to discover that mirror wasn’t already an emoji.