



# Raised Little Finger Emoji Proposal for Unicode 14.0

L2/19-326

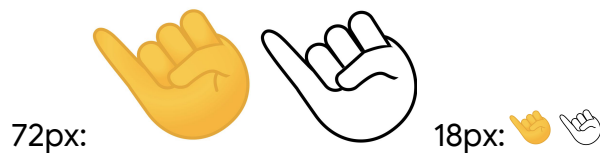
Emoji Submitter: Gretchen McCulloch, Lauren Gawne, Jennifer Daniel to UTC

Date: September 2019

## I. Identification

Sample Image	Proposed Unicode and CLDR name	Possible CLDR English keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
	Raised little finger	Fancy, classy, etiquette, promise, effort, loo, power move	

## II. Images



### License

We certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the UTC.

## III. Sort location

Hand-fingers-partial



## II. Selection factors — Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

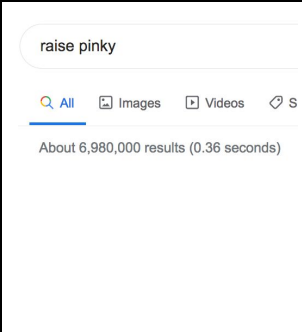
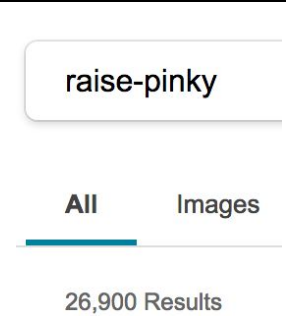
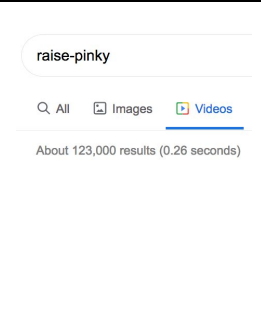
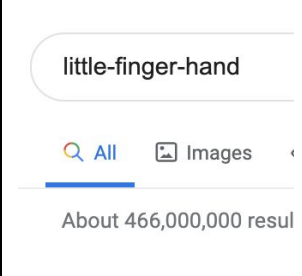
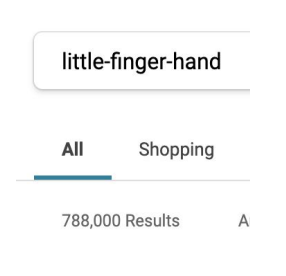

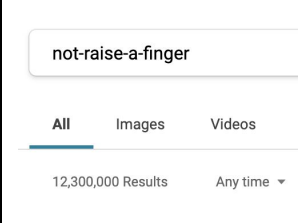
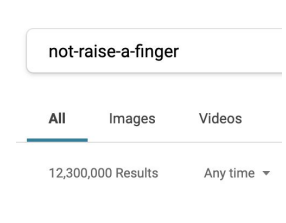
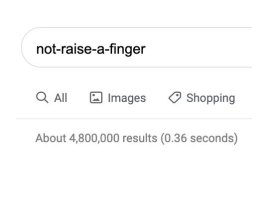
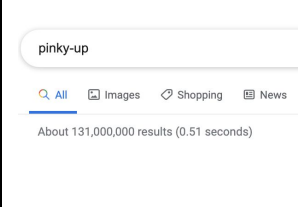
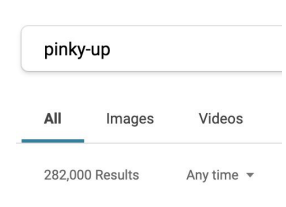
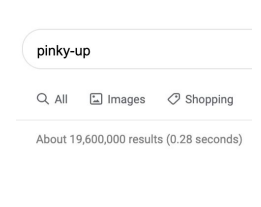
n/a

### B. Expected use

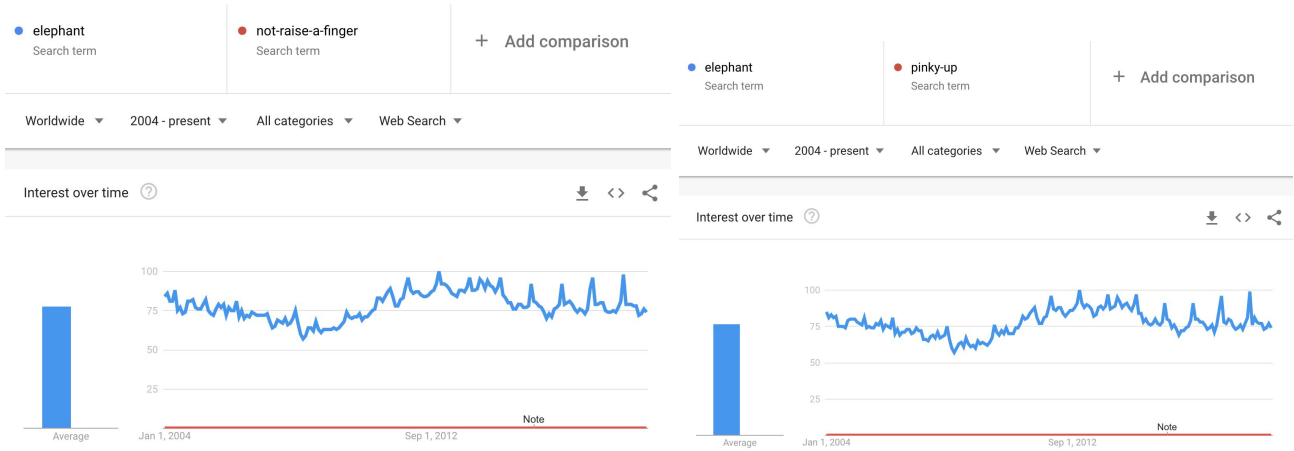
#### 1. Frequency

Usage is expected to be extremely given high usage of hand gesture emoji and based on the following search results

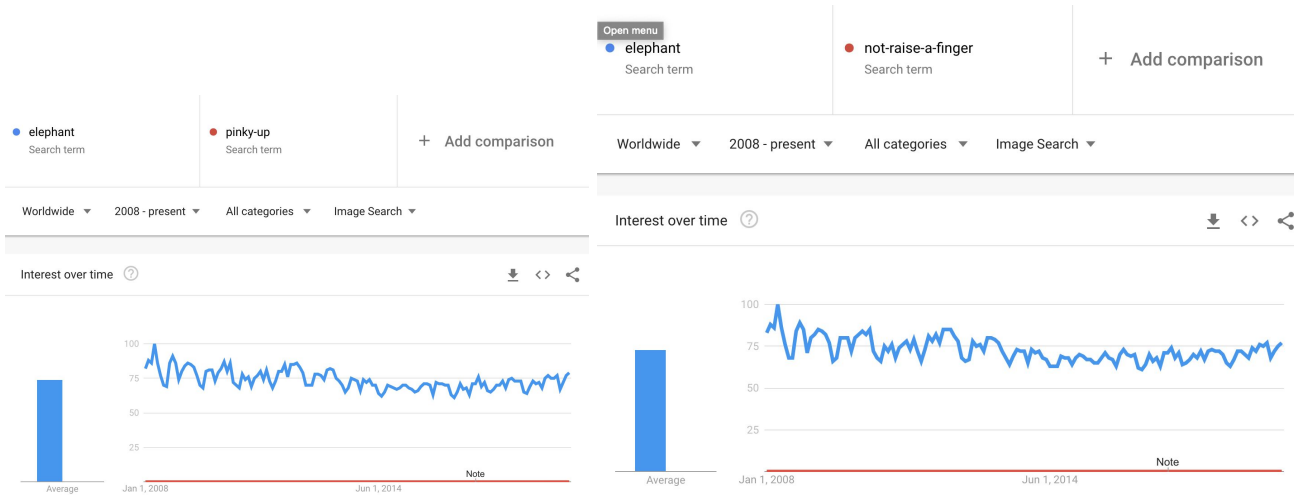
Search Term	Google Search	Bing Search	Google Video Search	Google Trends: Web	Google Trends: Image
little-finger-hand	466,000,000	788,000	63,300,000	See below	See below
not-raise-a-finger	307,000,000	12,300,000	4,800,000	See below	See below
pinky-up	131,000,000	282,000	19,600,000	See below	See below

Search term	Google Search	Bing Search	Google Video Search
raise-pinky			
little-finger-hand			
not-raise-a-finger			
pinky-up			

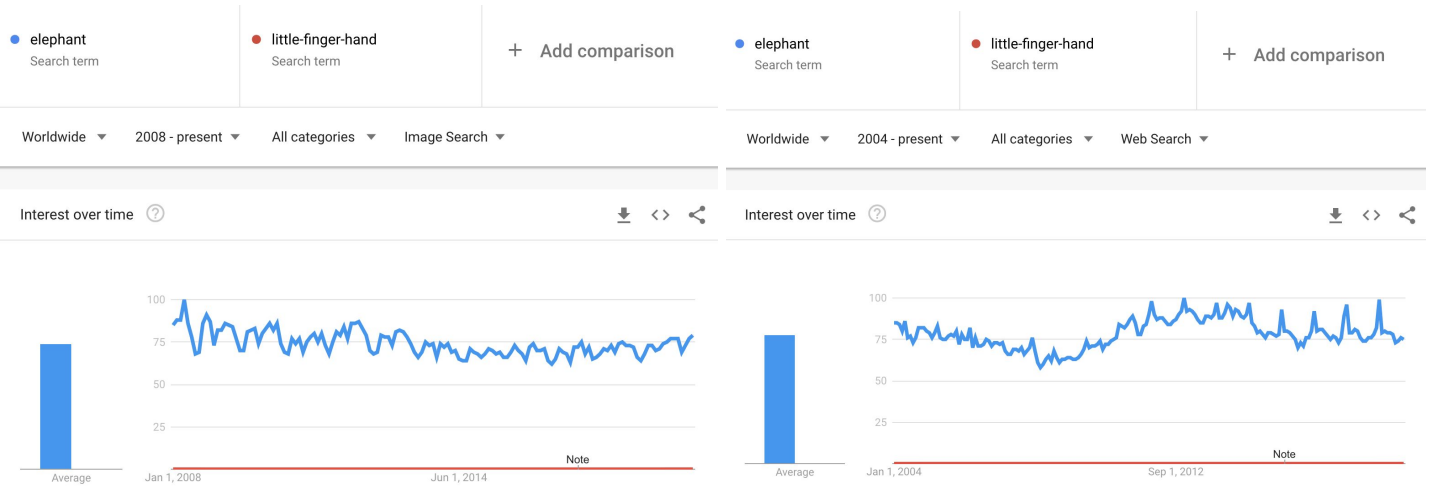
*Pinky-up.*  
 Google Trends: Image and Web



*Not-raise-a-finger.*  
 Google Trends: Image and Web



*little-finger-hand.*  
 Google Trends: Image and Web



## 2. Multiple usages

Conveys a broad range of meanings around the world

- Sign Language:
  - ASL (American Sign Language)- Sign for the letter “i”
  - BSL (British Sign Language)/Auslan - Sign for “bad” and related words like appalling, dreadful, terrible, horrible, shame, awful, unfortunate, unfortunately ([source](#))
- Dictionary of Gestures ([Caradec 2018](#)):
  - Skinniness
  - Offering a ‘pinky promise’
  - As an extension of holding tea can mean pretentiousness
  - Can mean ‘woman’ in Japan (and her male companion is the thumb)
- Cultural Significance:
  - In Bali: Means 'bad' (Source: [Morris 1994](#))
  - In India: refers to using the bathroom. [source](#)
  - Western Culture: Elitism, etiquette
  - Slang: Used sarcastically when calling someone less than classy
  - Slang: Used to suggest a diminished manhood. [source](#)
  - The Ultimate Power move - A retort. [source](#)

## 3. Use in sequences

Can be used with non-face emoji, face-emoji, and people emojis to indicate status or quality of the emoji it is positioned directly next to.

- To say that something that is not your business:
  - Spill the tea, missy. ☕👉👄
- Swear:
  - I promise not to say anything 🔒👉
- Throw Shade:
  - He thinks he’s such a tough guy 👉😬
- Doing something classy:
  - Going out with Gretchen tonight! 👉👤💎
- Something went badly (for BSL users and possible other groups as documented above)
  - I think I failed my exam 👉😭
- When you’re talking about someone lazy, using the “not lifting a finger” idiom
  - Ugh, my roommate is so lazy he won’t even lift a finger to help out with the housework 👉👤
- Using the bathroom (India)
  - brb 👉

## 4. Breaking new ground

This emoji fills an important gap in existing hand gestures. It allows the user to

express sincere etiquette and sarcastic classism. Because it is a representation of a common body action, is more likely to convey meaning to the broadest possible range of emoji users. The meanings found around the world include positive (fancy, classy) and negative values (pretentious, bad), which demonstrates how versatile handshape emoji can be.

Research has shown that hand, face, and heart emoji are the most-used categories of emoji overall (Medlock & McCulloch 2016) and when a new face or hand emoji is added, it quickly joins the top 100 most-used emoji (e.g. the thinking face in 2015 and the mind-blown face in 2017).

A recent paper proposes that this popularity of faces and hands is because emoji have a similar role in written communication as gesture does in spoken communication (Gawne & McCulloch 2019) so continuing to fill in the set of common gestures represented as emoji is sensible from both a theoretical and a practical, usage-based perspective.

### **C. Image distinctiveness**

The isolated extended pinky is visually distinct. Hand gestures are highly meaningful for people, with variation in the number of fingers giving distinct meanings. One type of fish may not look that distinct from another, and all fall under the larger category of 'fish', but humans use handshapes to create gestures that are very distinct from each other (remove one finger from a 'peace sign' and you have a very different meaning). The fact that this gesture is distinct and meaningful is clear from the variety of cross-culturally varied uses, which gives it much more possibility for use in a variety of locations than location specific items.

### **D. Completeness**

This proposal fills a gap in the paradigm of hand shapes represented (single raised thumb, single raised index finger, and single raised middle finger are all encoded already; while single raised ring finger does not have common additional meanings except as a euphemism for the raised middle finger). Single raised pinky finger does have various common meanings and it is the only single raised finger with common meanings to not be represented. It therefore makes emoji more accessible to sign language users, for whom these are linguistic differences equivalent to the difference between 'cat' and 'hat'.

## **III. Selection factors — Exclusion**

### **F. Overly specific**

No. This design is iconic of this commonly understood gesture. It is cartoonishly expressed in pop culture and in media.

### **G. Open-ended**

No, this is not part of a set of similar items.

### **H. Already representable**

No.

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

Not applicable. There are no logos, brands, signage or otherwise among the proposed characters.

**J. Transient**

Not applicable.

**K. Faulty comparison**

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.

**L. Exact Images**

An exact image is not required.