

Re: ESR Report for UTC #185 (2025Q4)
From: Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the ESR
Date: 2025-10-21 (revised 2025-10-28)

1. ESC Emoji Recommendations for Unicode 18.0 ⚖️

We are recommending a short list of nine new characters (shown below) and the removal of one, U+1FADD APPLE CORE, from the Unicode 18.0 list



[185-C] Consensus: Remove the following emoji from the approved list of characters for Unicode Version 18.0, based on Section 1 of document L2/25-230R:

U+1FADD APPLE CORE

[185-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, RMG: Update the pipeline to remove the U+1FADD APPLE CORE, based on Section 1 of document L2/25-230R, for Unicode 18.0.

[185-C] Consensus: Accept nine (9) new emoji characters with the following character names, based on Section 1 of document L2/25-230R, for Unicode 18.0:

U+1F6D9 LIGHTHOUSE
 U+1FA8B METEOR
 U+1FA8C ERASER
 U+1FA8D NET WITH HANDLE
 U+1FACC MONARCH BUTTERFLY
 U+1FADD PICKLE
 U+1FAEB FACE WITH SQUINTING EYES
 U+1FAF9 LEFTWARDS THUMB SIGN
 U+1FAFA RIGHTWARDS THUMB SIGN

Of the recommended emoji, two (Leftwards Thumb Sign and Rightwards Thumb Sign) accept skin tone modifiers, bringing the total number of sequences to 19.

[185-A] Action Item for Ken Whistler, RMG: Update the pipeline to add the nine new emoji characters in Section 1 of document L2/25-230R, for Unicode 18.0.

[185-A] Action Item for Jennifer Daniel, ESR: Provide to Michel Suignard black/white images for the new emoji characters, based on Section 2 of document L2/25-230R, for Unicode 18.0.

KEY

Blue Cell	Emoji_Modifier_Base=Yes
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Smileys & Emotion

face-neutral-skeptical

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
1		FACE WITH SQUINTING EYES	accuse, concentrate, focus, glare, inspect, scrutinize, skeptical, suspicious, unsure, judge, concern	L2/25-259	0

People & Body

hand-fingers-closed

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
2		LEFTWARDS THUMB SIGN	point, that, this, grip, neutral, left	L2/25-252	5 (skin tones)
3		RIGHTWARDS THUMB SIGN	point, that, this, grip, neutral, right	L2/25-252	5 (skin tones)

Food & Drink

food-vegetable

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
4		PICKLE	gherkin, brine, relish, trouble, cucumber, condiment, ferment	L2/25-253	0

Animals & Nature

[animal-bug](#)

5		MONARCH BUTTERFLY	insect, migration, caterpillar, transformation, hope, change, fragile, metamorphosis	L2/25-254	0
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[sky & weather](#)

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
6		METEOR	Space, rock, star, falling, gravity, fireball, apocalypse,	L2/25-257	0

Activities

[arts & crafts](#)

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
7		ERASER	Erase, undo, mistake, error, correction, delete, remove, rub, writing, drawing	L2/25-255	0

Travel & Places

[place-building](#)

8		LIGHTHOUSE	Sea, navigation, light, enlightenment, guidance, hope, maritime, beacon, signal	L2/25-XXX	0
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Objects

[tool](#)

Nº	IMAGE	CLDR SHORT NAME	CLDR KEYWORDS	Proposal	Additional Sequence Count
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7		NET WITH HANDLE	Catch, collect, trap, mesh,	L2/25-258	0
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2. Update on Interoperability Audit

As noted in [L2/25-008](#) and [L2/25-089](#), our multi-quarter effort to improve interoperability is moving forward. Below are the key findings and notes on notable emoji included in study.

Key Findings

1. Direction and color rarely play a role in emoji interpretation

Where emoji differ with regard to direction or color, this rarely results in preference differences in participants.

2. Animals need bodies

For all Unicode animal labels, full-body designs were by far the most preferred - animals are more than just a cute face.

3. Superfluous visual details impact interpretation

Some designs are better at representing specific concepts than others because of the individual details. For example, inclusion of contents makes some designs for BASKET (its official name) less likely to be associated with that label, but good candidates for LAUNDRY or PICNIC.

4. Additional details can emphasize core meaning

There are moments where extra little details can really improve selection, if they are relevant. For example, showing some cable as part of ELECTRIC PLUG or light beams as part of FLASHLIGHT.

5. CLDR words don't always match emoji designs

Some designs are far more likely or unlikely to be chosen for specific labels. For example, all current designs for LEG are poor candidates for representing KICK, even though KICK is a CLDR keyword for that emoji.

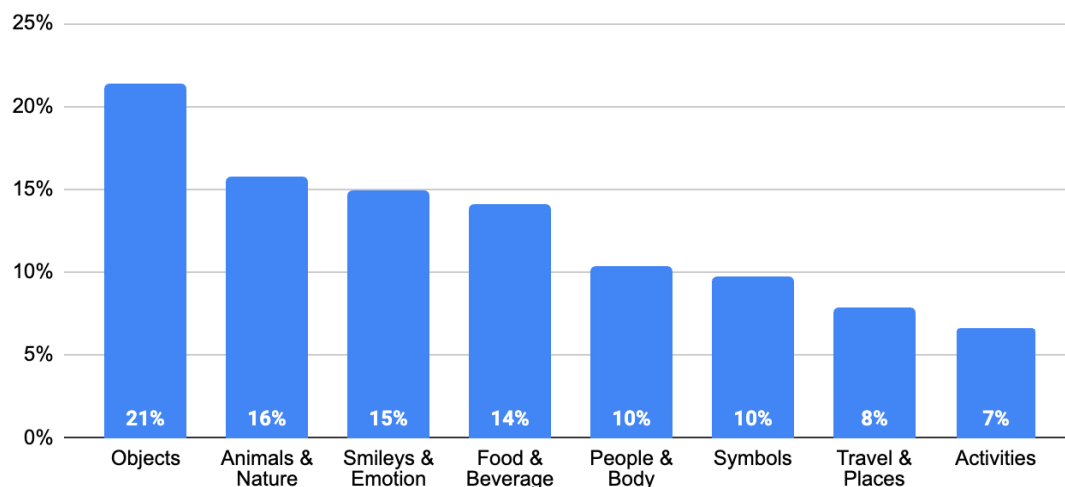
Animals and Nature					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	LOTUS	Accuracy	No	No	Remove lily pad for more global general use
	RACCOON	Body vs face	Yes	No	Design should show full body, not just face
	BABY CHICK	Body vs face	Yes	No	Design should show full body, not just face
	BIRD	Body vs face	Yes	No	Design should show full body, not just face
	PENGUIN	Body vs face	Yes	No	Design should show full body, not just face

	HORSE	Specificity	No	No	Some horse designs have a saddle blanket, others do not. No evidence this is impacting selection of these emoji at a higher/lower rate than other designs.
	OYSTER	Different meaning	Yes	No	Include a pearl in the oyster design.
	WOOD	Direction, number	No	No	Some designs show multiple pieces of wood instead of a stump. No evidence this is impacting selection of these emoji at a higher/lower rate than other designs.
Travel and Places					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	PICKUP TRUCK	Color	Yes	No	Standardise to red, other color was almost never chosen.
	CITYSCAPE AT DUSK	Color	Yes	No	Change the color of cityscape at dusk to a more purple color which is more commonly associated with “dusk”.
	BRICK	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Standardise to BRICK, as per the CLDR keywords. Use a single brick, as per the most-selected design. Propose WALL emoji if needed.
	WHEEL	Different meaning	Yes	No	Standardise the design to a car wheel with a tire to improve range of meaning.
Food and Drink					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	CUCUMBER	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Standardise to CUCUMBER, as per the CLDR keywords. Propose PICKLE emoji if needed.
	OLIVE	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Redesign all to the pimento-style olive. Propose a non-pimento olive emoji if necessary, to cover additional meanings.
	PEA POD	Number	Yes	No	Reduce to three peas to improve range of food representation.
	TEAPOT	Direction	No	No	Despite direction and color changing across multiple font designs, no evidence this is impacting use.
	ICE CREAM	Number	No	No	Despite number of scoops and flavors changing across multiple font designs, no evidence this is impacting use

	ROOT VEGETABLE	Direction	No	No	n/a
People and Body Parts					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	FOOT	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Direction is not the issue, but flexibility of use. Standardise to a full-foot design, ensuring to include enough ankle (unlike Microsoft), avoid being on tiptoes (like Twitter). Remove STOMP from CLDR and propose new emoji if needed.
	PERSON KNEELING	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Standardise to dual knee position. If single knee is important, then propose new addition.
	LEG	Direction	No	Maybe	Remove KICK from CLDR and propose a new KICK emoji, or adjust design to make it more indicative of KICK.
	MECHANICAL LEG	Direction	No	No	n/a
Smileys and Emotion					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	FACE WITH THERMOMETER	Microexpression	Yes	No	Update any differences in color and eyebrows.
	SMILING FACE WITH TEAR	Microexpression	Yes	No	Change micro expressions - less red face color, remove eyebrows.
	WORRIED FACE	Microexpression	Yes	No	Change shape of eyebrows on Apple design.
	PERSON POUTING	Microexpression	Yes	No	Include crossed arms to effectively communicate POUTING, SULK and other very specific emotions.
	FULL MOON FACE	Direction	Yes	No	Standardise to left-facing eye direction.
Objects					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	BASKET	Different meaning	Yes	Maybe	Standardise to empty, focus on the item itself and not contents. No blanket or liner, just a basket. Either remove CLDR keywords related to PICNIC and LAUNDRY or propose new emoji to represent those.

	SKIS	Specificity	Yes	No	Change to show skis as a prominent part of the image. Perhaps also standardise direction at the same time, but no need for color.
	TENNIS	Specificity	Yes	No	Change to racquet only, with no ball. The additional detail of the ball did not improve selection.
	MEGAPHONE	Direction	Yes	No	Standardise to right-facing. And, if possible, red.
	BOXING GLOVE	Direction	Yes	No	Change to upwards direction.
	MAGNET	Direction	Maybe	No	Standardise to right-facing.
	E-MAIL	International	Maybe	No	If the goal is to align with Japanese origin, change to E. Otherwise, no change.
	COIN	Different meaning	No	No	Explored adding a silver coin but proposal did not meet criteria for inclusion
	INCOMING ENVELOPE	Different meaning	No	No	Some designs show a letter entering a literal inbox others designs focus on the movement.
	ELECTRIC PLUG	Direction	No	No	n/a
	FLASHLIGHT	Direction	No	No	na
	HAIR PICK	Direction	No	No	n/a
Symbols					
Emoji	Label	Issue	Changes?	Add new emoji?	Notes
	CURRENCY EXCHANGE	Direction	Yes	No	Add colors to arrows to differentiate from currency symbols.

3. Intake for Unicode 18.0 🗺️



The submission period for 2025 emoji proposals is now complete. The largest category (Objects) represented one fifth of all proposals despite being one of the least-used types of emoji. The ESR WG will continue to review and provide feedback for proposals that were submitted during the April-July submission period.

Looking back on emoji approved over the past few years, the number of proposals continues to increase but the number of emoji we recommend is not. The ESR Working Group remains committed to identifying ways to improve the Unicode Standard beyond just adding new emoji year over year but also improving the existing set and the experience using them.

