

Proposal for Emoji: Thumb point

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72px		
18px		
Type	Colored	Black & White

1. Identification

Keywords: “thumb”, “point” “mock”, “wrist”, “that”, “asl”, “hitchhike”

Category: hand-fingers-closed, between the “sign of the horn” and “call me” emoji.



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2. Factors for Inclusion

Expresses multiple concepts

Aside from being used as an alternative to pointing much more subtly than with the index finger (which is considered rude in many Asian, South American and African countries: Cambodia, Malaysia, South Korea, Nicaragua and Nigeria to name a few¹), it is a very distinctive and well-established way of expressing mockery² or jest of a person (or statement or thing) in Western pop culture, as we see Jerry³ do as far back as 1943.

It also conveys the Hitchhiker's signal⁴, which is slightly different from a regular thumbs up, because in the Hitchhiker signal, the thumb is typically bent in the direction of intended travel down the road.

Next it is often used in combination with the imperative for a person to leave the room, such as "Get out!"⁵. Also the thumb (or sometimes both thumbs) could be pointed towards one's own body to indicate ownership of an action or thing.

Finally it is an integral part of American Sign Language, as it is part of the ASL sign for "forget"⁶, "Aunt"⁷ and "yesterday"⁸. See further data on this in the Frequency section below.

-
1. [Pointing - Wikipedia](#)
 2. [Ross Geller / David L. Schwimmer "Get a load of this guy"](#)
 3. [Jerry Pointing Meme](#)
 4. [Ray Dolin shot while hitchhiking: Why do hitchhikers stick out their thumb?](#)
 5. [Get Out Gesture Stock Photo](#)
 6. [Youtube - How to sign forget in ASL](#)
 7. [Aunt in ASL](#)
 8. [How to Sign - TODAY - TOMORROW - YESTERDAY](#)

Can be used with other emoji to convey additional concepts

Yes, here are some examples of how it can be used in combination with other emojis:

- "I built the shelf myself": 🧐👉
- "Get a load of this guy": 👉😂
- "I forgot" (in ASL): 👉👤

- Hitchhiker signal: 🚶👉🚶
- “This sucks actually”: 👉👹
- “Didn’t you and Jason go to a concert at Madison Square last week?”: 👉🧐
- A wild turkey is chasing our car: 🦃👉🚗
- “Yesterday” (in ASL): 🗓️👉
- “Aunt” (in ASL): 👉👵
- “I cut my thumb”: 🩸👉😞
- “Periodt” (a pop culture slang to express agreement): 👉✨😏
- Looking at your fingernails: ✨👉👤
- Sucking your thumb or biting it seductively: 🗑️👉

Breaks new ground

Yes it breaks new ground in non-verbal communication as it is the missing piece in hand-related emoji language. For the reasons I stated in the “Expresses multiple concepts” section above, I can say that it therefore completes the incomplete category of single-handed gestures.

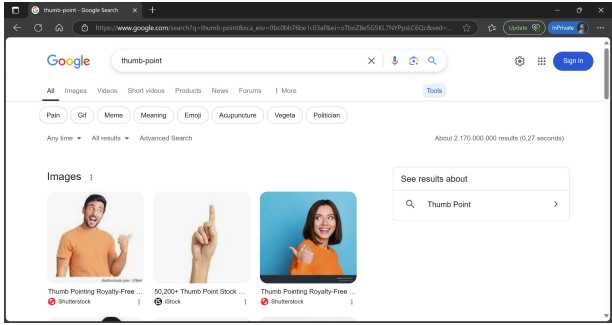
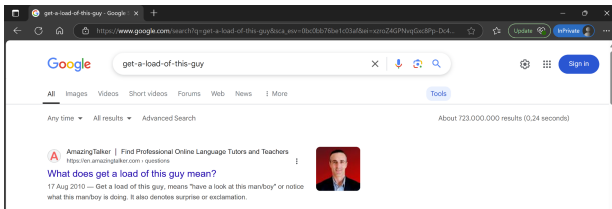
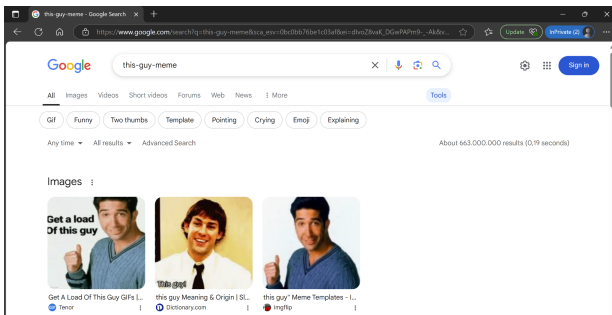
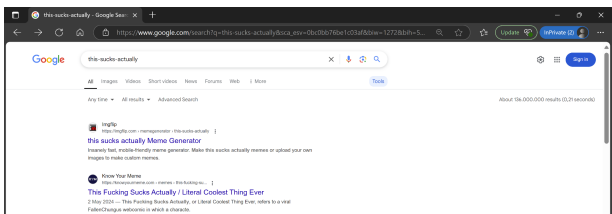
Lastly it could be used to represent the intermediate gesture between a thumbs up and a thumbs down, to show indecisiveness or uncertainty, since that might not require a separate emoji based on this single usage alone.

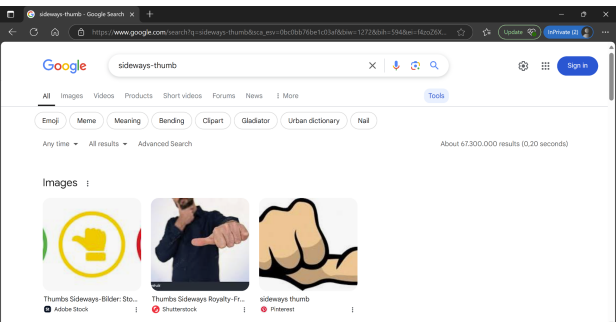
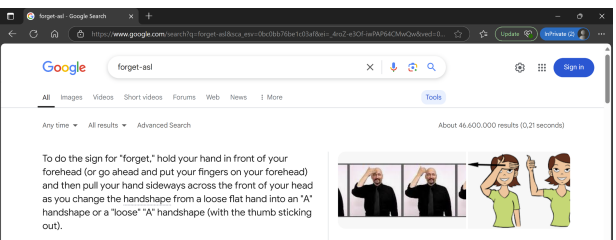
Legible and visually distinctive

Based on my exposition and references so far, I can ascertain that the proposed emoji is visually distinct and legible.

High usage level

1. Google Search

Searched keyword	Result	
thumb-point	2,170,000,000	
get-a-load-of-this-guy	723,000,000	
this-guy-meme	663,000,000	
this-sucks-actually	136,000,000	

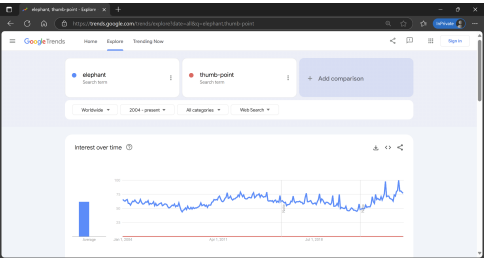
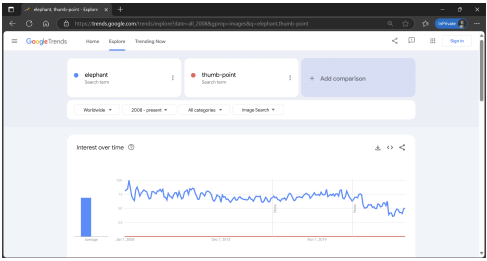
sideways-thumb	67,300,000	
forget-asl	46,000,000	

2. Google Video Search

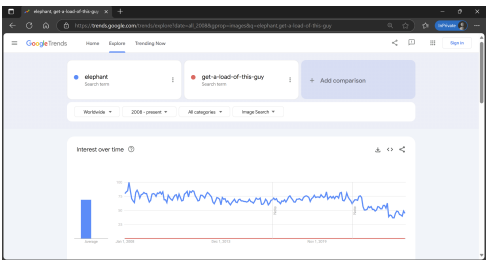
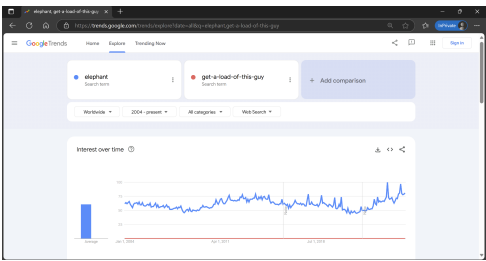
For some unknown reason Google has hidden the search results count in other tabs such as Video, even when “Tools” is clicked. Bing and Yahoo video search results also seem to be hidden for me.

[Google Testing Dropping Results Count After Moving It Under Search Tools](#)

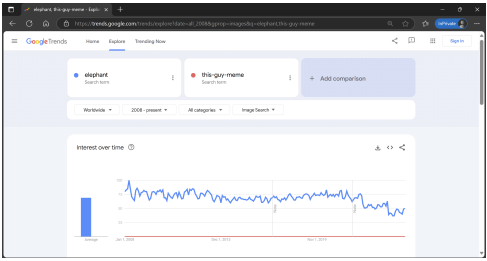
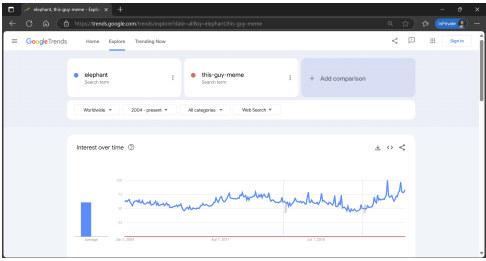
3. Google Trends: Web & Image Search

Searched keyword	Web Search result	Image Search result
Thumb-point		

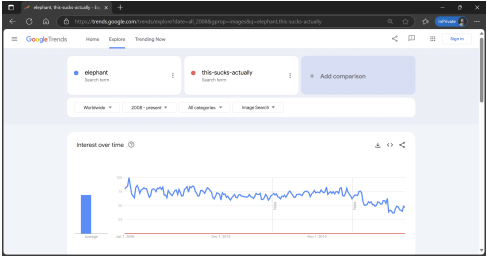
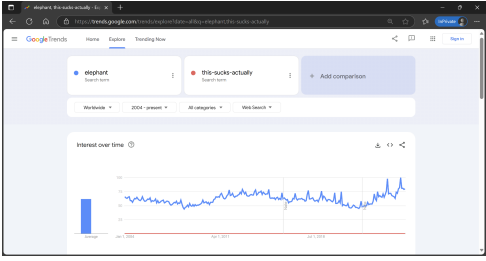
Get-a-load-of-t
his-guy



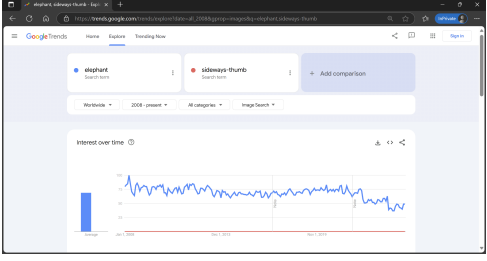
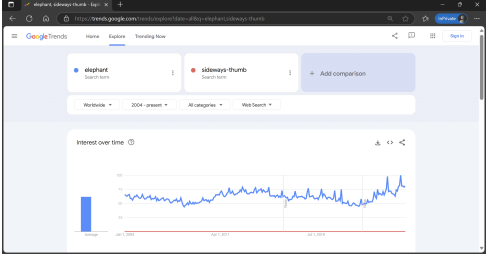
This-guy-meme



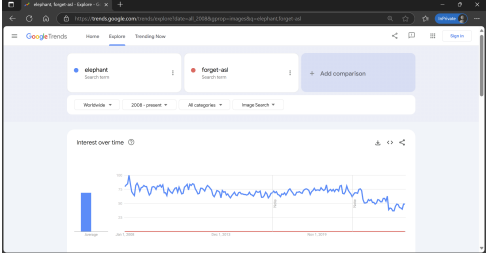
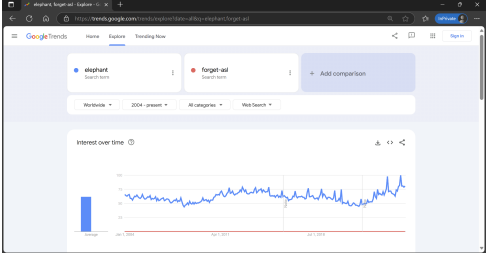
This-sucks
actually



Sideways-thum
b



Forget-asl

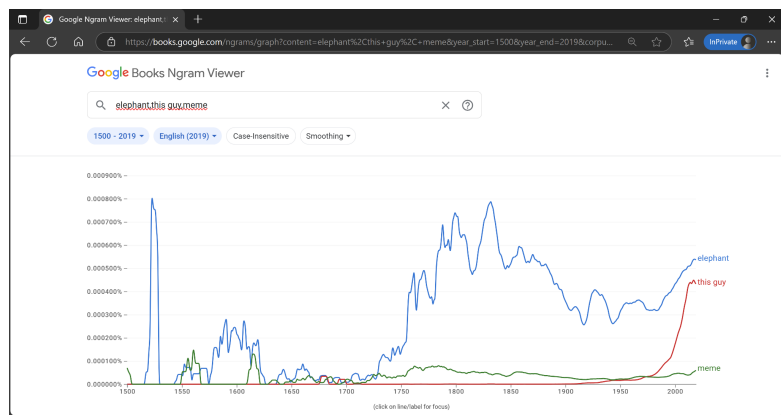
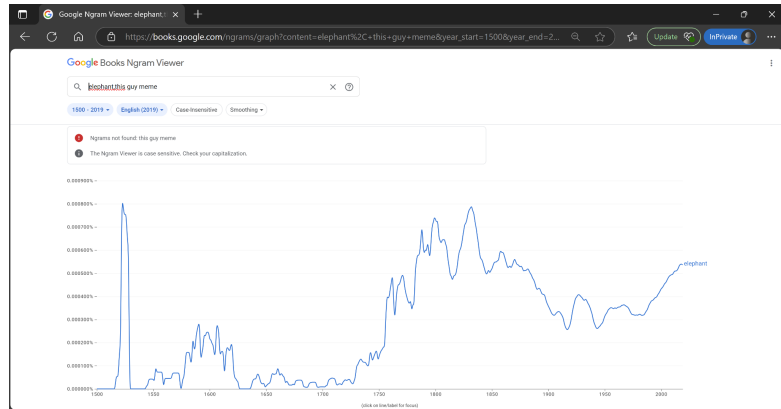


4. Google Books Ngram Viewer

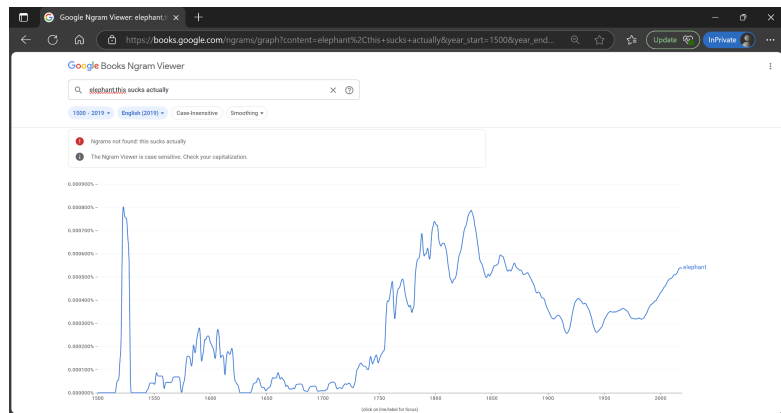
Searched keyword	Result
Thumb point NB: I also added the data for “thumb” and “pointed” below, to make a better case, since these are much more likely to appear in a book separately than just the phrase “thumb point”. By using “pointed”, I tried to eliminate results where it’s used as a Noun.	The screenshot shows the Google Books Ngram Viewer interface. The search bar contains the text 'elephantThumb point'. The graph displays the frequency of this phrase from 1500 to 2019. The y-axis represents the percentage of books, ranging from 0.000000% to 0.000900%. The x-axis represents the year. The graph shows a significant peak around 1550, followed by a decline and then a gradual increase starting around 1750, peaking again around 1850, and then declining towards 2000. The label 'elephant' is visible at the end of the line, and 'thumb point' is visible at the bottom right of the graph area.
	The screenshot shows the Google Books Ngram Viewer interface. The search bar contains the text 'elephantThumbpointed'. The graph displays the frequency of this phrase from 1500 to 2019. The y-axis represents the percentage of books, ranging from 0.000000% to 0.016000%. The x-axis represents the year. The graph shows a significant peak around 1550, followed by a decline and then a gradual increase starting around 1750, peaking again around 1850, and then declining towards 2000. The label 'pointed' is visible at the end of the line, and 'thumb' and 'elephant' are visible at the bottom right of the graph area.
Get a load of this guy	The screenshot shows the Google Books Ngram Viewer interface. The search bar contains the text 'elephant get a load of this guy'. The graph displays the frequency of this phrase from 1500 to 2019. The y-axis represents the percentage of books, ranging from 0.000000% to 0.000900%. The x-axis represents the year. The graph shows a significant peak around 1550, followed by a decline and then a gradual increase starting around 1750, peaking again around 1850, and then declining towards 2000. The label 'elephant' is visible at the end of the line, and 'get a load of this guy' is visible at the bottom right of the graph area.

This guy meme

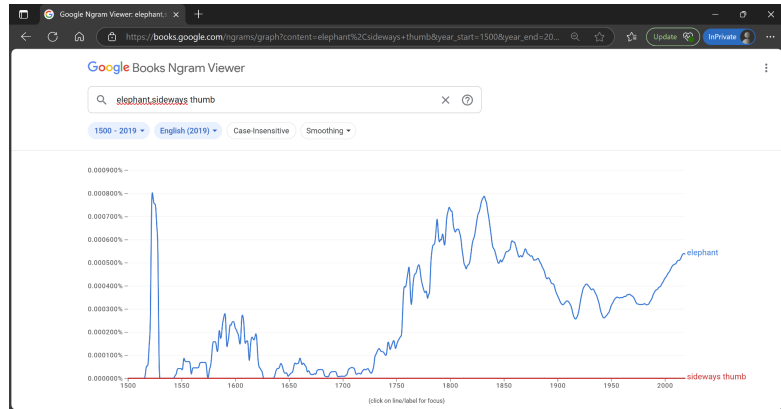
NB: similar to thumb-point, I've also added the data for the phrase "this guy" below, to make a better case, since this combination of words is much more likely to appear in a book than the phrase with "meme" at the end of it)



This sucks actually

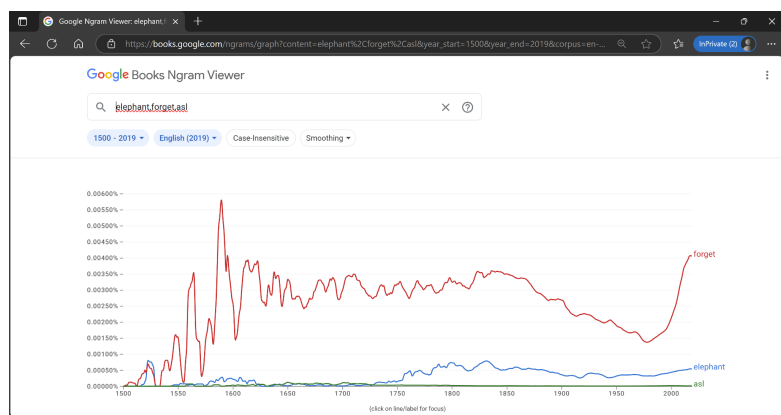
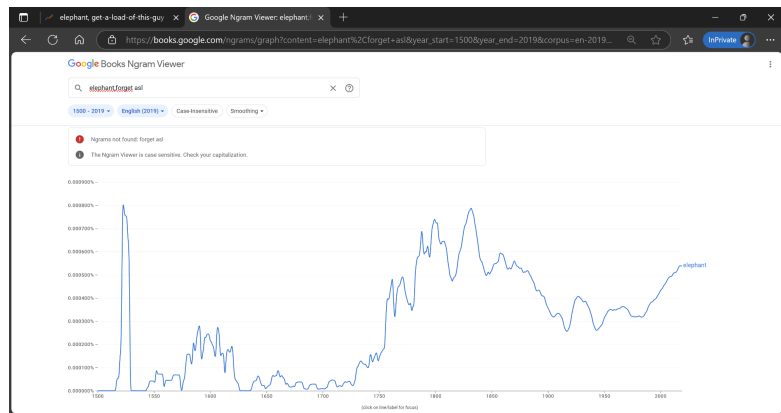


Sideways thumb



Forget asl

NB: similar to thumb-point, I've also added the data for just the words "forget" and "asl" below, to make a better case, in order to access the words individually, as they might not appear side-by-side in a book.



Completes an incomplete category

Yes

Is needed for compatibility with popular existing systems

N/A

3. Factors for Exclusion

Already represented

It could be substituted with a combination of  , but this is not intuitive enough. Also pointing could be depicted with , but as discussed, this is seen as rude in many cultures and there are also other different concepts it represents.

Overly specific

Based on my exposition under “Expresses multiple concepts”, I can say that it isn’t overly specific.

Open ended

With my argument that it completes the category of single-handed gestures, I further assert that it is not open-ended and hence doesn’t leave room for further variations as with different dog breeds for example.

Transient

It is unforeseeable that it ceases to be used as pointing with the thumb is a well-established human gesture.

Faulty comparison

My proposal for this emoji relies on the existence of other emojis only insofar that it completes the incomplete category of hand-related gestures. No faulty comparison has been used as a primary justification.

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

Inapplicable.

Exact Images

An exact image is not required.