

# Proposal for Emoji "Squinting Face"

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## 1. Identification

**CLDR short name:** squinting face

**CLDR potential keywords:** accuse, concentrate, focus, glare, inspect, scrutinize, skeptical, squint, sus, suspicious, unsure

## 2. Images



72px Color



18px Color



72px B/W



18px B/W

### License:

The proposed images were created by myself, and are available for free. The Unicode Consortium has the right to use them under a royalty-free license in order to encode them and sublicense them under the Consortium's various open-source licenses.

## 3. Category

**Category :** face-neutral-skeptical

**Ordering :** 😊 😐 😏 😬 😇

## 4. Selection Factors - Inclusion

### 4A. Compatibility

Currently, to my knowledge, there are two emoji that have the word "squint" in their name: GRINNING SQUINTING FACE 😊, and SQUINTING FACE WITH TONGUE 😏. However, the expressions in these emoji have tightly shut eyes rather than squinting, and there is no emotional relationship between these and the proposed SQUINTING FACE 😇. The closest emotional relation is maybe FACE WITH RAISED EYEBROW 😏, which is often used to express mild skepticism, but doesn't convey anything more severe. The SQUINTING FACE, on the other hand, communicates a much greater level of suspicion or scrutiny than can be found in any available emoji.

## 4B. Expected Usage Level

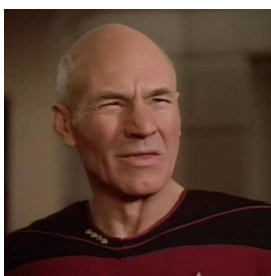
### i. Frequency:

It can safely be expected to have an extremely high level of usage for the foreseeable future. Because the squint is a universally recognized and performed facial expression across time and cultures, used to convey the seriousness with which one is assessing a situation,<sup>1</sup> as well as an involuntary physical reaction to improve vision by focusing light entering the eye,<sup>2</sup> there is no reason to believe users would not find countless contexts in which to use it.

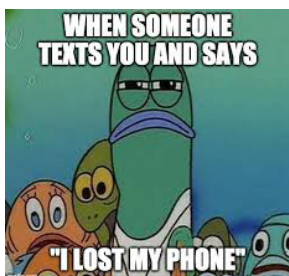
Apart from the emotional attributes that are expressed with a squinting face, there's also a connotation of toughness or grit, famously seen in the portrayal of "The Man With No Name", played by Clint Eastwood in the classic western film *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. It's likely that SQUINTING FACE would be utilized by the general public in a similar way.

One of the best arguments for the likely high usage of the Squint emoji is in the abundance of squinting images in meme culture. According to the Meme aggregation website memegenerator.net, the "Squinting Fry" (AKA "Not Sure If...") meme is ranked #2 out of the most popular memes of all time.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, at the bottom of this page, I've included a series of other famous memes, images, or GIFs that all utilize squinting as their main vehicle for expression.

Another recent development in the way people express scrutiny is the recent popularity of the word "sus" to describe the feelings of one's suspicion about someone or something. It's very likely that SQUINTING FACE would be paired easily with that sentiment.



"Picard Squint" Meme Template



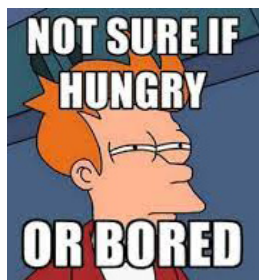
"Serious Fish" Meme



"Steamed Hams" Meme Template



Clint Eastwood in *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly*



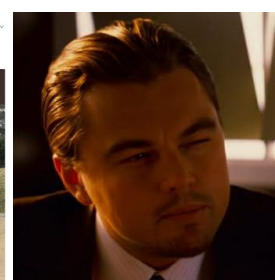
"Not Sure If..." Meme



"George Costanza Squint" Meme



"Squinting Woman" Meme



"Inception Squint" Meme

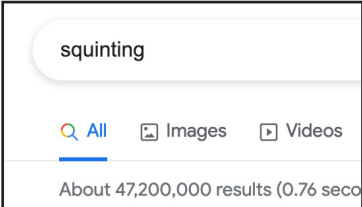
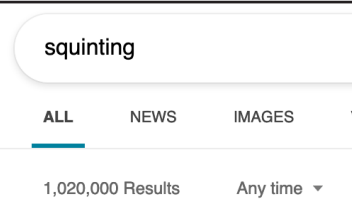
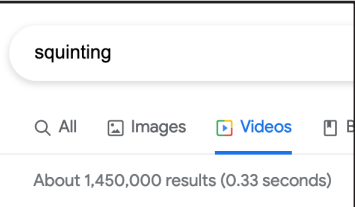
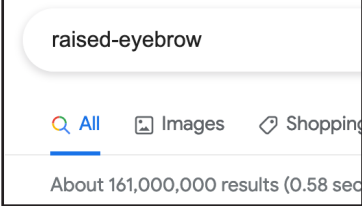
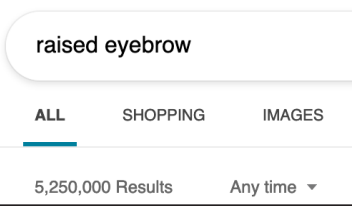
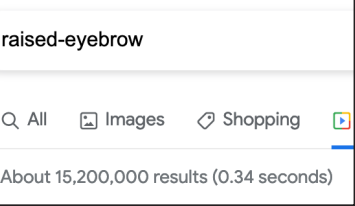
<sup>1</sup> According to research by University of Colorado Boulder scientist Daniel Lee, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/02/170222113759.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Cornell Center for Materials Research, <https://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/faqs/why-does-squinting-help-people-with-vision-problems-see-better/>

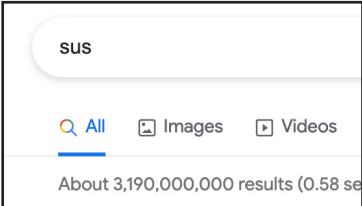
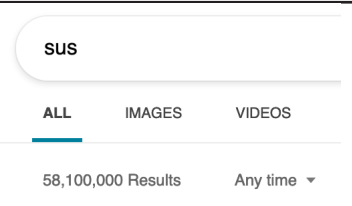
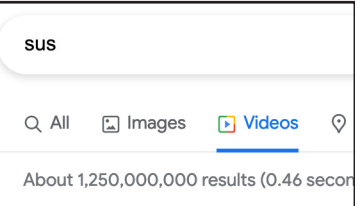
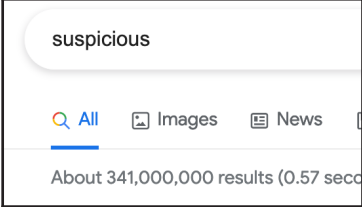
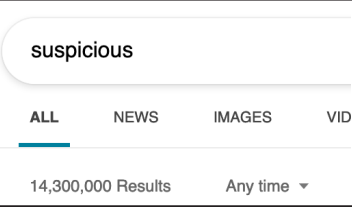
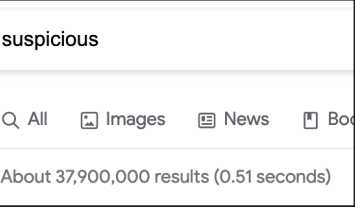
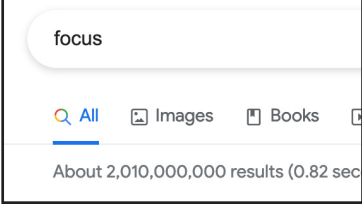
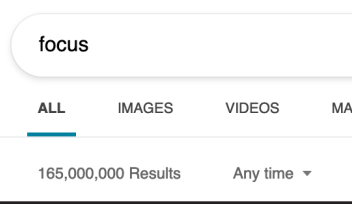
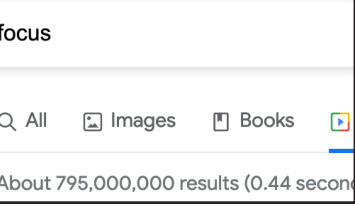
<sup>3</sup> <https://memegenerator.net/Futurama-Fry>

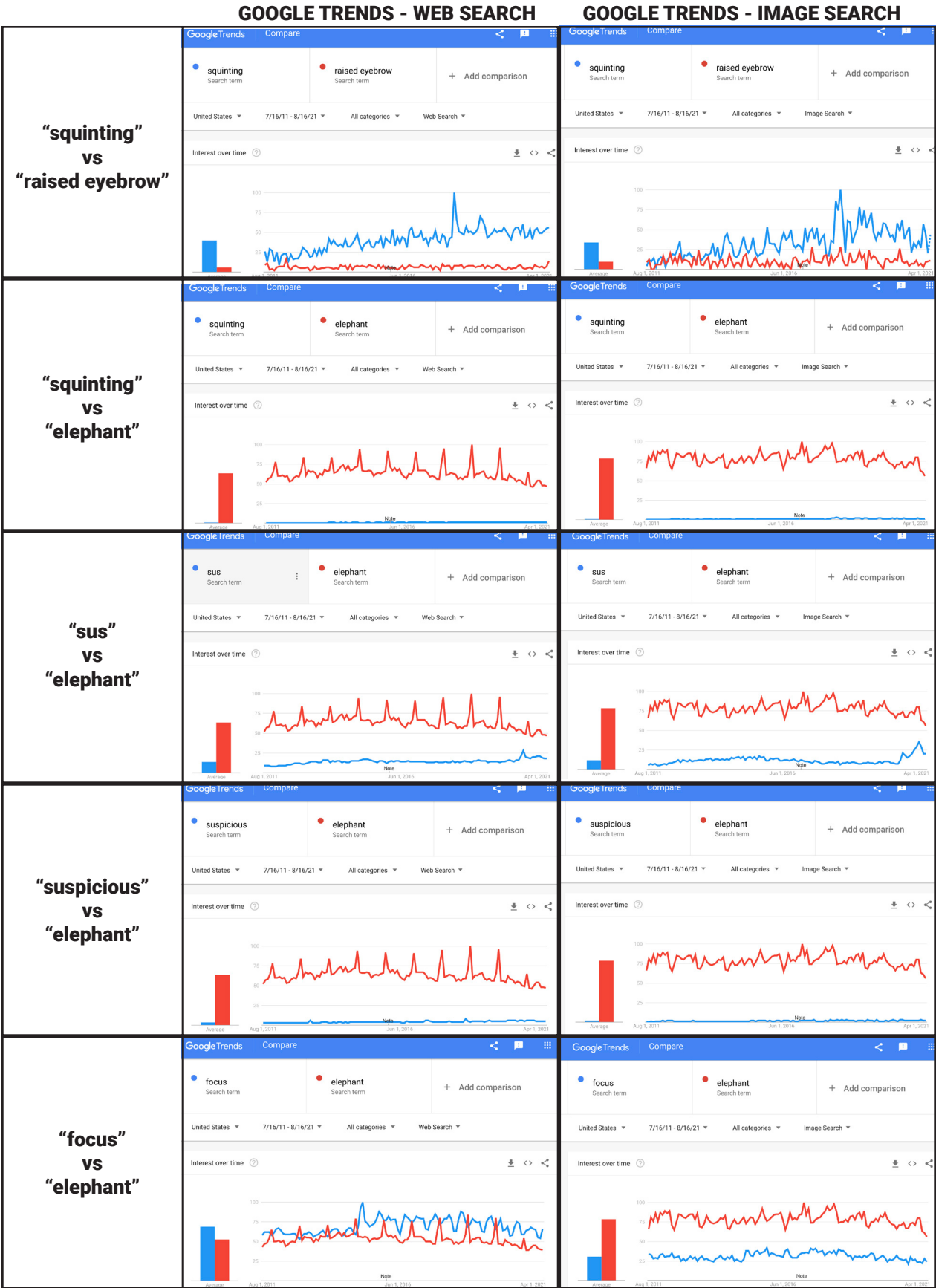
4B-i. Frequency (cont’d)

I’ve included screenshots for the search results of various keywords relating to SQUINTING FACE. The most closely related emoji in the library FACE WITH RAISED EYEBROW was used for comparison. I feel it’s important to note that “Face With Raised Eyebrow” has been included in the emoji library since 2017. These results were captured on August 16th, 2021.

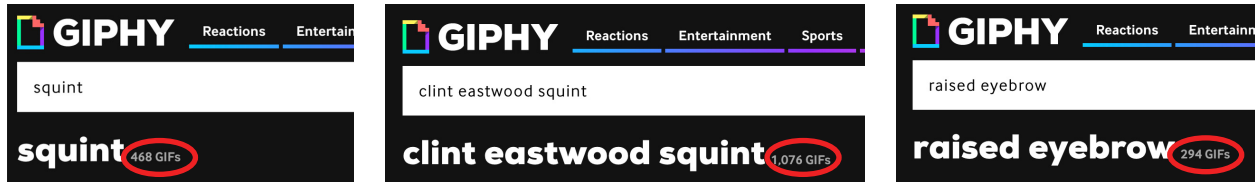
|                  | GOOGLE                                                                            | BING                                                                               | GOOGLE VIDEOS                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| “squinting”      |  |  |  |
| “raised eyebrow” |  |  |  |

Because the word squinting is broad and doesn’t necessarily convey the specific emotions or actions people may generally associate with it, I thought it would make sense to include search results of some common associations, including “sus”, “suspicious”, and “focus”:

|              | GOOGLE                                                                              | BING                                                                                 | GOOGLE VIDEOS                                                                         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| “sus”        |  |  |  |
| “suspicious” |  |  |  |
| “focus”      |  |  |  |



In addition to the standard search results, within which smileys and emotions can be difficult to characterize, I've also decided to include the results from the popular Gif aggregator and search engine "Giphy", to demonstrate the relative popularity of the facial expressions in question when being used as a reaction or as a meme. These results were captured on August 15th, 2021.



## ii. Multiple Usages:

As stated in the previous section, a squinting face is made universally as both a voluntary reaction to express scrutiny, as well as an involuntary reaction to improve vision. Beyond these two main uses, squinting can be seen during...

- Suspicion
- Concentration / Focus
- Accusation
- Attempt to understand something or someone
- Glaring / Stink-eye / "Shooting Daggers" at someone
- Overwhelming physical stimuli (e.g. bright lights, strong winds, a distant explosion)

## iii. Use In Sequences:

The SQUINTING FACE is an incredibly versatile emoji that can be used creatively alongside other emoji in a number of ways:

- She was shooting daggers at me 🗡️🗡️😬
- Me reading chapter 1 of my Advanced Trigonometry textbook like 📖😬 ???
- 😬 Not sure if lying, or just badly misinformed. 😬
- Not sure what direction to go with this paper... 🗑️😬🗑️
- What'd you say to my baby brother? 💪😬
- Did my boss just say what I think she said?? 😬🕶️👉
- Did you hear what Manuel said about Jose? Super sus... 😬🤔😬
- Ok....slow clap. 🖐️😬
- At first I was like 😡 but then I was like 😬🤔😊
- Some dog walker just left some 💩 on my lawn...I've got my eye on them 😬

- Yeah. I have a lot of questions. Number one: how dare you? 🙄
- To my face he's like 🙄👉👉 but then behind my back he's like 👉🙄👉
- I just bought 10 lottery tickets today...question is...am I feeling lucky, punk? 🙄
- Did you read that article on social media? Seems kinda like BS to me... 🙄💻
- I've got a busy day today full of [checks notes 🙄] ...eating 6 cans of baked beans.
- It was super boring. So hard to stay awake... 😐🙄😴

#### iv. Breaking New Ground:

The SQUINTING FACE emoji adds to the current library of expressions in a way that isn't being fulfilled by other face options. It allows users to convey real, pointed skepticism and scrutiny of information. In the current age of hoaxes and misinformation being spread primarily through the internet, this emoji could be used to react with appropriate skepticism in a way that isn't possible with the current library. Whether it's a poorly-reported news article or a video of a politician making an ironic Freudian slip, SQUINTING FACE is an ideal response that its closest cousin, FACE WITH RAISED EYEBROW, is too mild to accurately respond with.

#### 4C. Image distinctiveness

The SQUINTING FACE emoji is wholly distinct within the current library of emoji. There is no current emoji that I'm aware of where the eyes have both the upper lids lowered and the lower lids raised. This characteristic, coupled with the furrowed brow and a slight frown, communicates a feeling ranging from concentration and focus, to skepticism and cynicism, and would not be easily confused for another design.

#### 4D. Image Completeness

N/A

## 5. Selection Factors - Exclusion

#### 5E. Petitions or "Frequent Requests"

N/A

#### 5F. Overly Specific

*Is this design overly specific?* No. While iconic of "scrutiny", it also has broad applications and alternative meanings, both in and of itself as well as when it's placed in context with other emoji.

#### 5G. Open-ended

*Is it just one of many designs, with no special reason to favor it over others of that type?* No, it's not part of a set of similar designs.

**5H. Already Representable**

*Can the concept be represented by another emoji or sequence, even if the image is not exactly the same?* No, as argued in the previous sections of this document, there are no other emoji or sequence of emoji that properly represent this emotion or facial expression.

**5I. Logos, brands, other third-party IP rights, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific buildings and landmarks, deities**

*Are the images unsuitable for encoding as characters?* No, SQUINTING FACE does not contain any images that can be construed as a logo, brand, third-party IP, UI icon, signage, specific person or place, or deity.

**5J. Transient**

*Is the expected level of usage likely to continue into the future, or would it just be a fad?* The proposed design is based on an intrinsic human reaction that can safely be expected to exist and be popularly used as long as humans have eyes with eyelids.

**5K. Faulty Comparison**

*Are proposals being justified primarily by being similar to (or more important than) existing compatibility emoji?* No, the reasons for adding SQUINTING FACE have nothing to do with any previously added emoji that were added only for compatibility.

**5J. Exact Images**

*Does the proposal request an exact image?* No, an exact image is not required. However, the design of the expression is simple and can be applied to many different vendors' visual styles. I've done a mockup chart of how SQUINTING FACE could be easily modified to fit within some of the most well-known visual styles:

