

# Person Looking in Mirror Emoji for Unicode 13.0

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Date: March 2019

## Identification

### CLDR short name

person looking in mirror

### CLDR keywords

Reflection, existential, mirror, identity,

### Closest unicode emoji

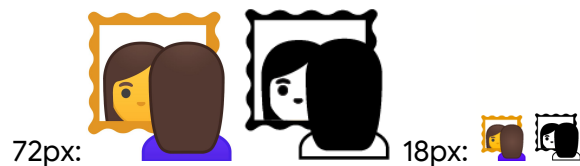
None

### Possible ZWJ

👤 + (MIRROR Emoji) | 🧑 + (MIRROR Emoji) | 🧑 + (MIRROR Emoji)

## Images

### Proposal



### Notes:

- For consistency in emoji pickers we are proposing men/woman/gender inclusive designs, as well as all 6 skintones for a total of 18 emoji.

### License

We certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the Unicode Consortium and created by the author of this document.

## Sort location

### Person - Gestures



# Reference Emoji

Given the metaphorical intent of this emoji, we are using multiple reference emoji for evidence of frequency.

- **Household objects**

- Shower 🚿 (most used household object)
- Bathtub 🛀 (second most used household object emoji )
- Toilet 🚽 (third used household object)

- **People - Role**

- Construction Worker 👷 (median)

- **Smileys - Emotion**

- Drooling face 😋 (median)

## Abstract

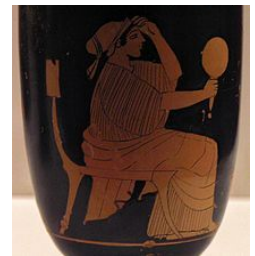
Emojis have demonstrated a critical role in conveying non literal ideas with literal objects. In this spirit, we propose an emoji that is a metaphor for a state of mind (or many states of minds) — self reflection, self-care, introspection, or an existential crisis: PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR.

# Introduction



Mirrors are literally a reflection of the world we live in and carry a variety of different meanings and associations across cultures. The metaphor of the heart or mind as a mirror appears not only in the work of Zhuangzi and Xunzi but also in the work of Western philosophers such as Kierkegaard and Rorty<sup>1</sup>.

Mirrors date back 8,000<sup>2</sup> years and the stories of mirrors being used as a metaphor for “knowing thyself” are timeless. The oracle of Apollo at Delphi demanded of the ancient Greek ‘know thyself,’ and mirrors have often been used as symbols of wisdom and self-knowledge.



In literature and fine art the representation and metaphor of PERSON LOOKING IN A MIRROR occurs frequently: Snow White's queen had a magic mirror (“Magic Mirror on the Wall...” and Alice traveled through the looking glass to the other side. [Countless photographers and artists](#) depict individuals looking into a mirror. There are even blog posts boasting “ten of the best mirrors in literature”.<sup>3</sup>



In contemporary culture, there are present-day urban legends about summoning Bloody Mary by saying her name three times into a mirror and the use of mirrors today can even be found in online culture thanks to memes. It is frequently cited that the rise of selfie culture is the primal need for teenagers to create their own identity — using a camera as a proxy for a mirror, discovering who they are by projecting who they wish they were and seeing what is validated and not.

Mirrors also have a strong connection to the concept of the soul, which results in a wealth of superstition. 🧙♀️

<sup>1</sup> <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/241602>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17041324>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/oct/30/john-mullan-mirrors-literature-review>

# Selection factors inclusion

## A. Compatibility

These characters are not proposed for compatibility with non-Unicode emoji on an existing system, therefore compatibility is not applicable.

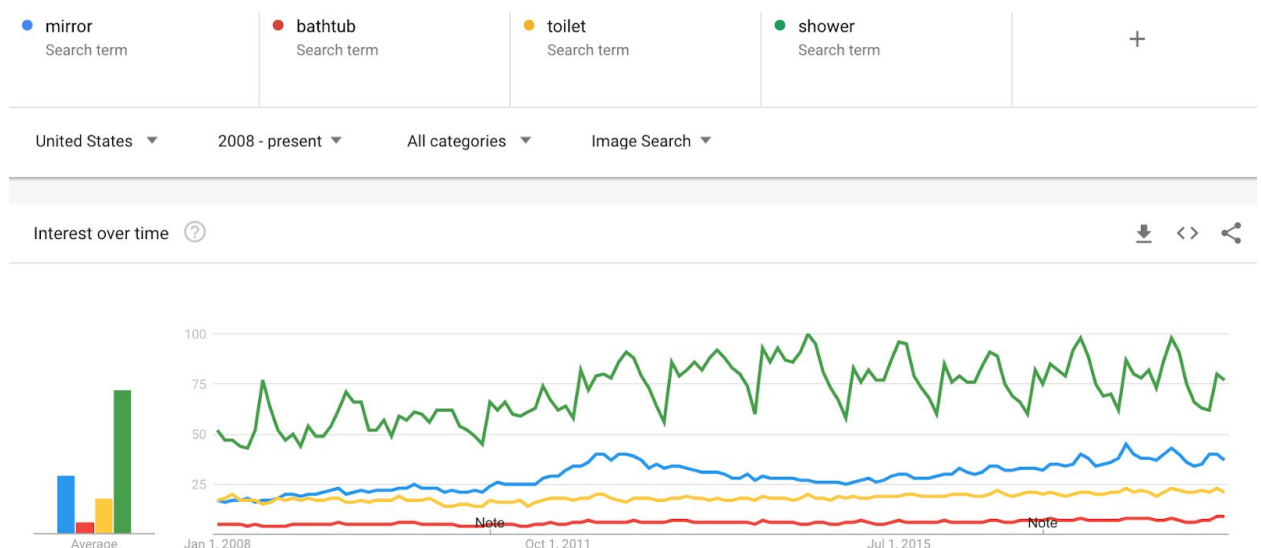
## B. Expected use

### 1. Frequency

#### Google Search Terms

Search term	Google all	Bing All	Youtube all	Is it an emoji already?
“Mirror”	2,200,000,000	34,500,000	186,000,000	no
MEDIAN EMOJIS				
“Construction worker”	33,200,000	n/a	8,350,000	yes
“Drooling face”	190,000	328,000	81	yes
TOP 3 HOUSEHOLD OBJECT EMOJIS				
“Shower”	1,760,000,000	n/a	56,800,000	yes
“Toilet”	873,000,000	13,700,000	50,300,000	yes
“Bathtub”	389,000,000	25,500,000	5,840,000	yes

The PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR emoji is expected to have high usage. When it comes to Google Trends web-search data worldwide, mirror greatly out performs the three most popular household emojis ( 🚽 toilet #2, bathtub #3 🛁 ) and is comparable with 🚿 shower, the most frequently used “household emoji”.





● mirror  
Search term

● bathtub  
Search term

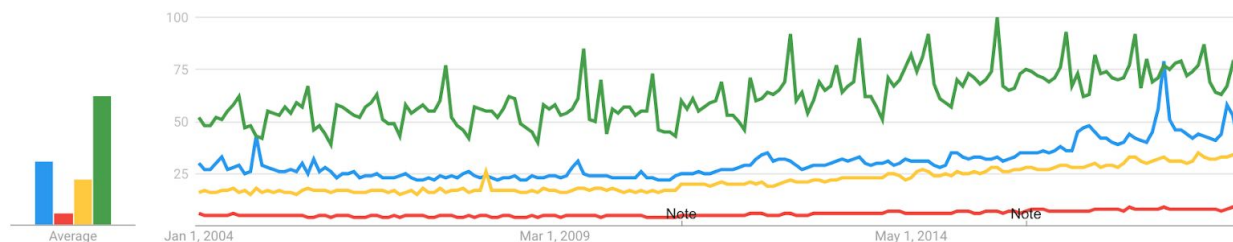
● toilet  
Search term

● shower  
Search term

+

United States
2004 - present
All categories
Web Search

Interest over time



● mirror  
Search term

● bathtub  
Search term

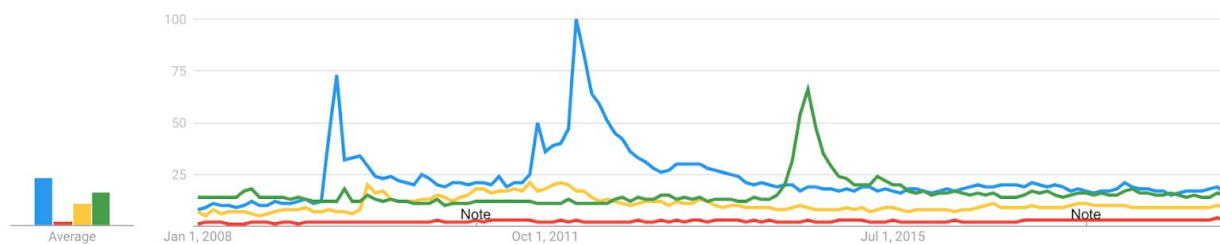
● toilet  
Search term

● shower  
Search term

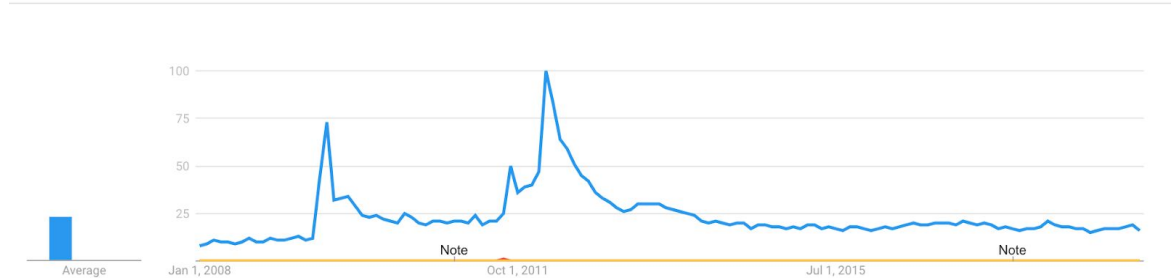
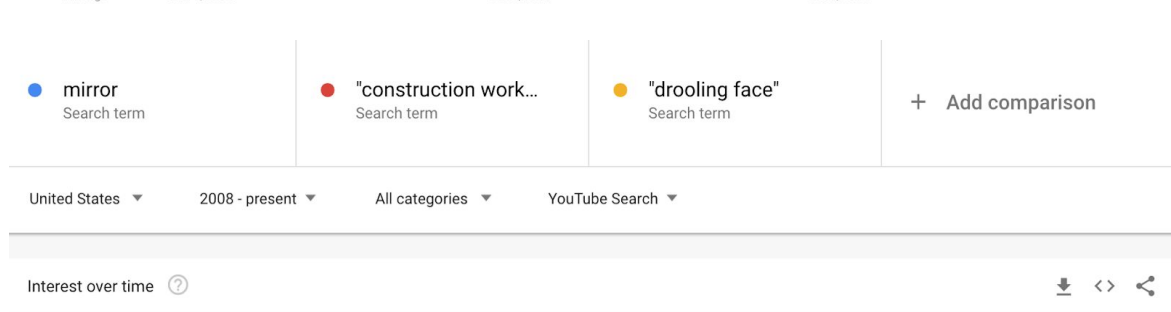
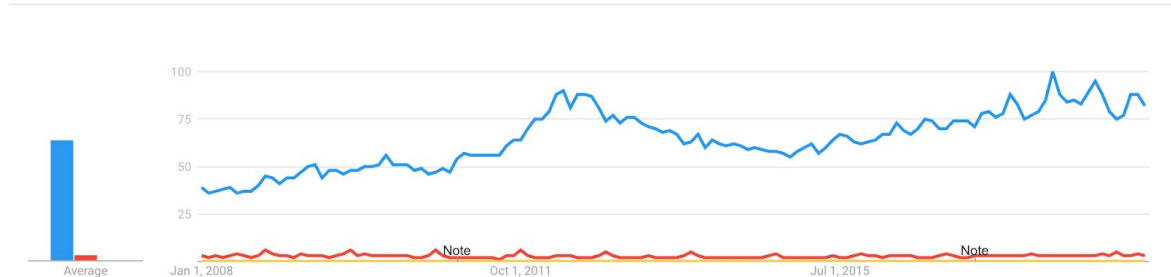
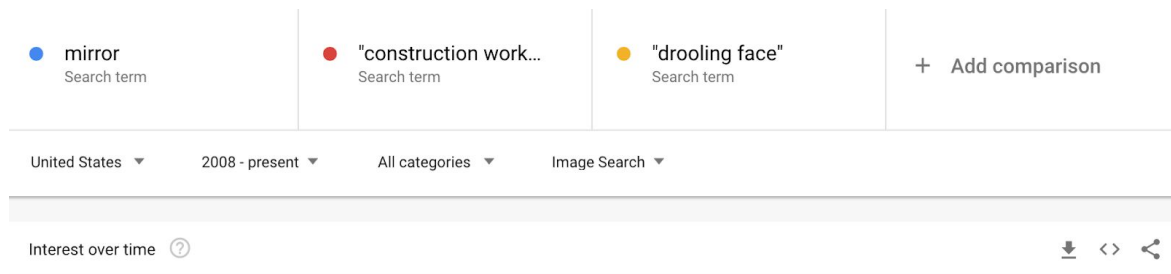
+

United States
2008 - present
All categories
YouTube Search

Interest over time










Given that this emoji is meant to be metaphorical, I am also including a comparison to the median emojis for “faces” (Drooling face) and “people-role” (Construction worker). Unclear if this is helpful, including it to be comprehensive.



## 2. Multiple usages

- As previously stated PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR is a commonly used metaphor to describe a number of mental states:
  - Self reflection
  - Introspection
  - Existential crisis
  - Existence of soul
- To reference self delusion (i.e. Mirror Mirror, on the Wall)
- As a visual signifier for “taking care of yourself”
- To illustrate the feeling of “staring into the mirror” ([meme](#))

### 3. Use in sequences/context

Use in context
Pay him no attention, he is in love with himself. 
I never thought I'd be the kind of person who shared memes 
I'm not sure who I am anymore 
Date night baby!  
I look goooooood  

### 4. Breaking new ground

This emoji is a visual metaphor and leans less into literally representing an object and more into a *feeling*.

#### C. Image distinctiveness

The PERSON LOOKING IN A MIRROR is distinct from existing images particularly within the objects and people-gestures group.

#### D. Completeness

The proposed PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR provides a significant advance in coverage to depict various forms of “state of being” and fills a significant gap in expression and emoji linguistic gaps among existing emoji.

#### E. Frequently requested

A MIRROR is often requested via [twitter](#) and appears on “[Emojis we wish existed](#)” lists.

## Counter Arguments to Factors for Exclusion

#### F. Overly specific Is the proposed character overly specific?

The PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR emoji is no more specific than it needs to be in order to represent the intended range of expression.

#### G. Open-ended

As noted, the PERSON LOOKING IN MIRROR provides a significant advancement in the depiction of various forms of mental states. We hope this emoji stimulates discussion about possible additional ways to depict growing up, learning who you are, and other visual metaphors for commonly experienced journeys.

#### H. Already representable Can the concept be represented by another emoji or sequence?

The concepts depicted in the proposed set are not representable with existing emoji.

## 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. As evident in the introduction, concepts and practices represented here are enduring.

## K. Faulty comparison

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

# Appendix

## Google | Bing | Youtube

<div><div>mirror</div><div>AllShoppingImagesVideos</div><div>About 2,200,000,000 results (0.50 seconds)</div></div>	<div><div>mirror</div><div>AllImages</div><div>34,500,000 Results</div></div>	<div><div>mirror site:youtube.com</div><div>AllShoppingImagesVideos</div><div>About 186,000,000 results (0.58 seconds)</div></div>
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<div><div>"drooling face"</div><div>AllImagesVideosShopping</div><div>About 190,000 results (0.29 seconds)</div></div>	<div><div>"drooling face"</div><div>AllImages</div><div>328,000 Results</div></div>	<div><div>"drooling face" site:youtube.com</div><div>AllImagesVideosShopping</div><div>About 81 results (0.23 seconds)</div></div>
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<div><div>"construction worker"</div><div>AllImagesNewsVideos</div><div>About 33,200,000 results (0.49 seconds)</div></div>	<div><div>construction worker site:youtube.com</div><div>AllImagesNewsVideosShc</div><div>About 8,350,000 results (0.58 seconds)</div></div>	n/a
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<div><div>shower</div><div>AllImagesShoppingVideos</div><div>About 1,760,000,000 results (0.39 seconds)</div></div>	<div><div>shower site:youtube.com</div><div>AllImagesShoppingVideos</div><div>About 56,800,000 results (0.51 seconds)</div></div>	n/a

toilet

AllShoppingImagesNews

About 873,000,000 results (0.48 seconds)

n/a

toilet site:youtube.com

AllShoppingImagesNews

About 50,300,000 results (0.49 seconds)

bathtub

AllShoppingImagesVideos

About 389,000,000 results (0.53 seconds)

bathtub

AllShopping

25,500,000 Results

bathtub site:youtube.com

AllShoppingImagesVideos

About 5,840,000 results (0.48 seconds)