

Proposal for Slightly Smiling Face with Tear emoji

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Identification

CLDR short name

Slightly smiling face with tear emoji

CLDR keywords

Thank you, relieved, grateful, I'm listening, awe, I'm touched, so proud

Closest unicode emoji



Possible ZWJ



Images



License

We certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the Unicode Consortium and are the creation of the document's author.

Sort location

A. **Category** - Smileys-Positive

B. **Ordering** 

Reference Emoji

The reference emoji we're using for evidence of frequency is the **smiley's median**

reference point: DROOLING FACE 

Abstract

The body has a way of restoring “emotional equilibrium” when responding to a positive feeling. **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR**  is iconic of this appreciation, empathy, and hopefulness when words fail you.

Introduction



“Happy tears”.

“Happy cry”.

“Tears of gratitude.”

“I’m so happy ... why am I crying?”

“Kvelling”.

Whatever you call this feeling and however it is evoked slightly smiling face with single tear embodies a naturally occurring physical response that allows people to better recover from strong emotions.² Why should Unicode care? According to the Association for Psychological Science, “These insights advance our understanding of how people express and control their emotions, which is importantly related to mental and physical health, the quality of relationships with others, and even how well people work together.”

Observed in religious scripture ([Christianity](#), Hinduism, [Lutheranism](#), and others), referenced in languages around the world ([Arabic](#), tk tk tk) and in modern pop culture ([Buffy the Vampire Slayer](#)). Roger Ebert noted in his DVD commentary for *Casablanca*, “When I think about the kinds of movies that make me cry, that make tears come to my eyes, I usually don't think about sad films. Sad films, I sort of just look at it. It's movies that are about selflessness, that are about sacrifice, about humans that believe in the good of the human race that sometimes move me.”

SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR 🥹 is a visual metaphor for feeling simultaneous appreciation and relief. This mishmash of goodness with a dash of sadness is experienced in a number of ways: When you think of the past (#tbt) and retrieve positive memories or are thankful for elements of childhood. When you're experiencing the present and not taking good fortune for granted as it comes. And, as you anticipate the future when you maintain a hopeful and optimistic attitude.

¹Sources of gifs: Steve Carell: giphy.com; Scene from Get Out: <https://weheartit.com/entry/220074463>. Kirstin Dunst: <https://www.elle.com.au/celebrity/kirsten-dunst-crying-cannes-reason-13251>; Julianne Moore: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXRixZ8ZqU>

² <https://news.yale.edu/2014/11/11/why-i-m-so-happy-i-could-cry-makes-sense>

Selection factors inclusion

A. Compatibility

These characters are not proposed for compatibility with non-Unicode emoji on an existing system, but it does correspond to an existing popular emoticon. See *Frequency Data*.

B. Expected use

1. Frequency

Google Search Terms

SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR 🥲 is expected to have high usage. Emoticon to emoji mappings are used across many popular communicative apps like Slack, Google Hangouts, Android Messages, to name a few. “:-)” which has no emoji mapping outperforms many existing emoticons that are already represented in unicode. What follows are the quoted forms of these search term hits — when it comes to Google Searches data worldwide, queries for an emoticon that can express both happy and sad outperforms some of the most classic emoticons such as “:-)” and “:-(“.

“Screenshots available in the appendix.

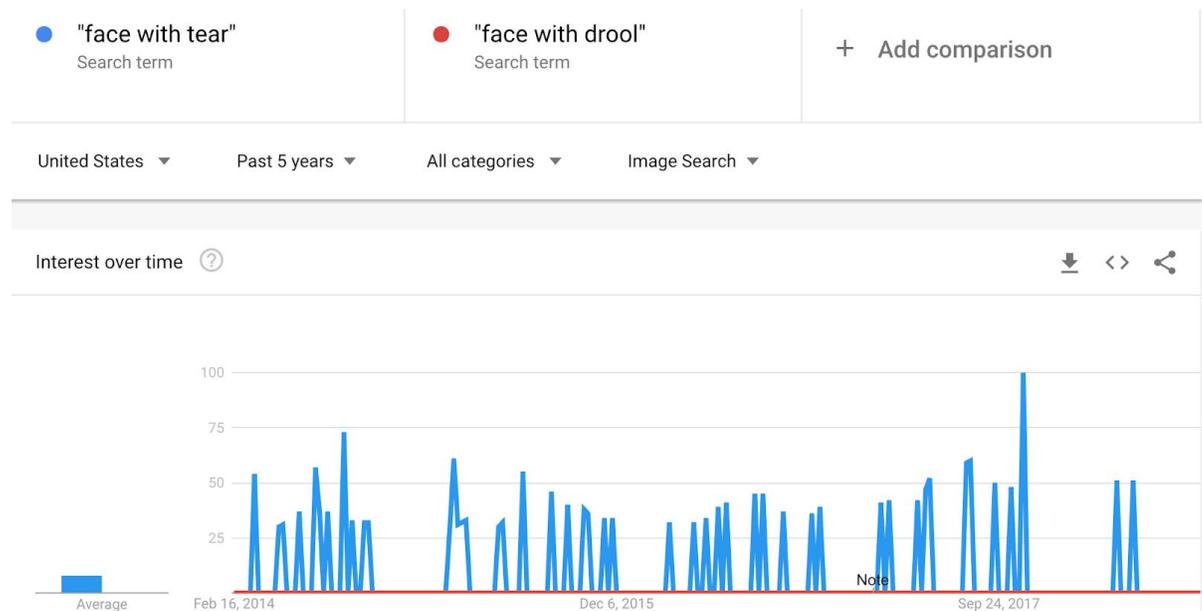
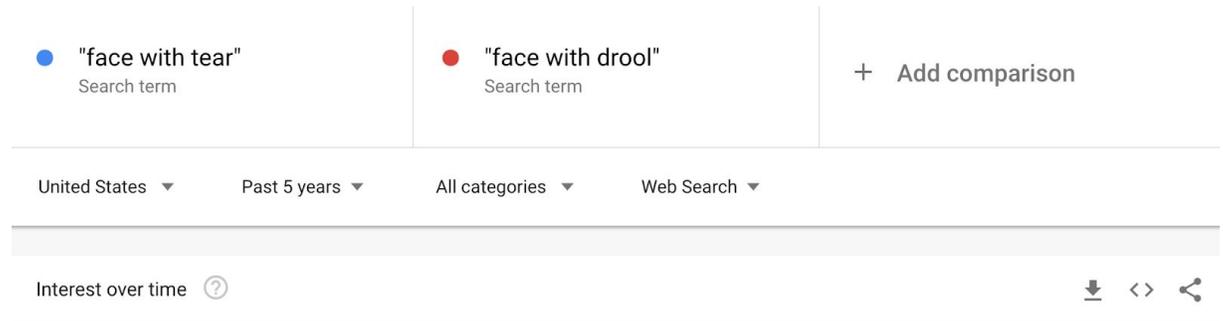
Search term	Emoji mapping	Google all	Bing All	Youtube all	Is it an emoji already?
“:-S”	😬	25,270,000,000	251,000,000	n/a ³	yes
“:-O”	😮	21,970,000,000	84,600,000	n/a	yes
“:-P”	😜	17,370,000,000	96,500,000	n/a	yes
“:-)”	n/a	615,000,000	No results	n/a	no
“:-)”	😊	442,000,000	No results	n/a	yes
“:-(“	😞	52,000,000	No results	n/a	yes
“:-*”	😮	10,500,000	No results	n/a	yes
“:- ”	😐	2,080,000	No results	n/a	yes
“:\(“	😭	No results	No results	n/a	yes

³ punctuation broke youtube, results were unrelated and n/a

Google Trends

In general, smiley faces are the most commonly used emoji type but when it comes to Google Trends web-search data worldwide, you wouldn't be able to tell: the charts are rather noisy. Nonetheless, we've provided a few snapshots into how this emoji compares and outperforms to the median smiley: "DROOLING FACE" 🤤.

"FACE WITH TEAR" vs "FACE WITH DROOL"



"HAPPY SAD FACE" vs "DROOLING FACE"

● "happy sad face"
Search term

● "drooling face"
Search term

+ Add comparison

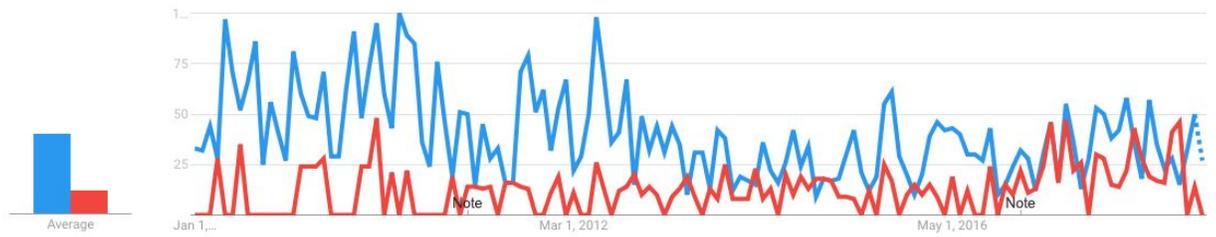
United States ▼

2008 - present ▼

All categories ▼

Image Search ▼

Interest over time ⓘ



● "happy sad face"
Search term

● "drooling face"
Search term

+ Add comparison

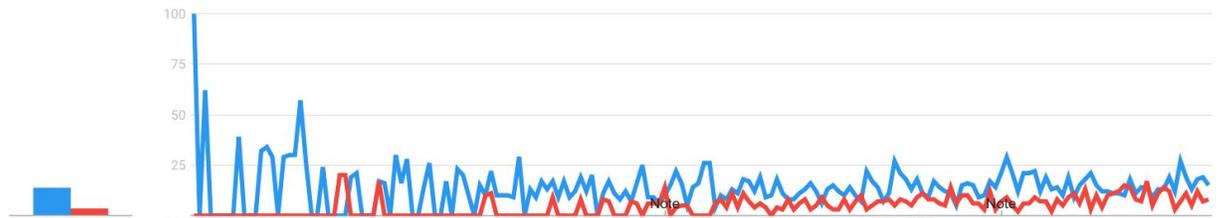
United States ▼

2004 - present ▼

All categories ▼

Web Search ▼

Interest over time ⓘ

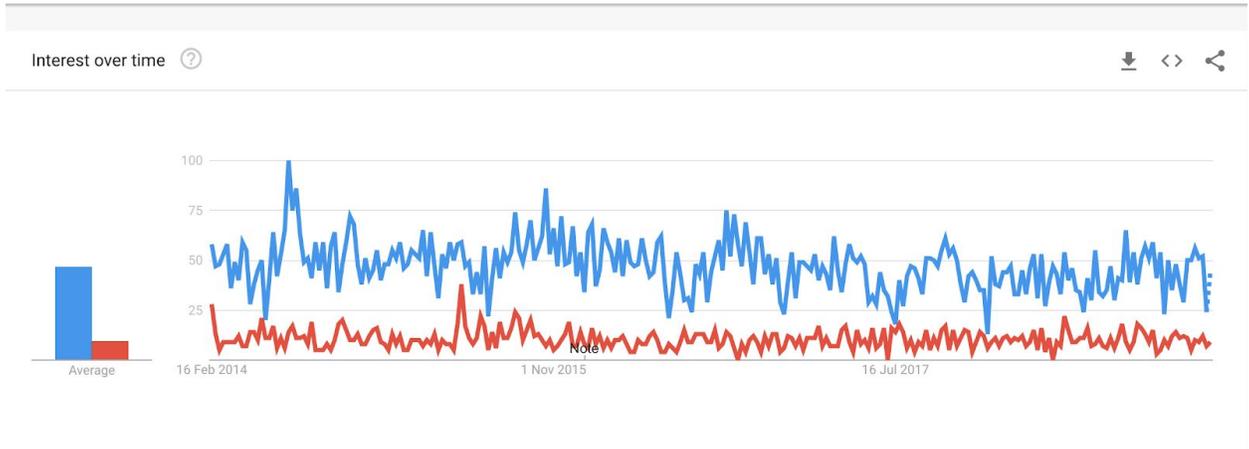


HAPPY SAD FACE vs DROOLING FACE

Please note: These are “unquoted results” but given noisiness of the other charts, they are included here for the sake of completeness

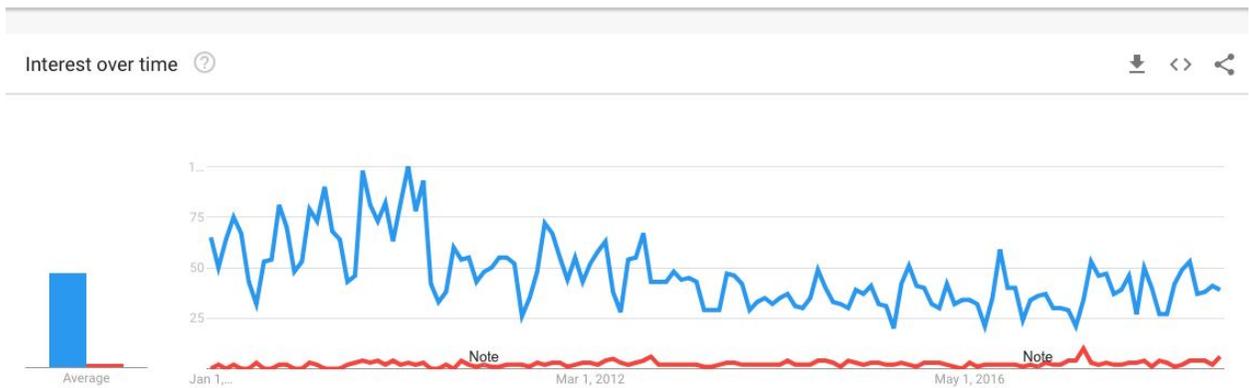
● happy sad face Search term	● drooling face Search term	+ Add comparison
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United States ▼ Past 5 years ▼ All categories ▼ Web Search ▼



● happy sad face Search term	● drooling face Search term	+ Add comparison
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United States ▼ 2008 - present ▼ All categories ▼ Image Search ▼



2. Multiple usages

As previously stated **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR** 😊 is a visual representation of something that plain text fails at communicating. What other emoji conveys the feeling of when a soldier comes home and his dog instantly recognizes him? Or when someone you cherish gets married? It's part "bless us every one" and part empathetic, triumphant, moved, overcome.

- A gentle way to express appreciation and append phrases like "I'm touched" and "thank you".
- Indicate a **softer "tears of joy"** more suited to watching an emotional film than "crying laughter" (Think Sense & Sensibility not Dumb and Dumber)
- Signify **relief** or **catharsis**, such as 'thank goodness'.
- When something makes you happy, but not like overly excited.
- Expresses **nostalgia** (happiness but sadness about the past)

An emoji that is ambidextrous enough to express a large range of appreciation as listed above would be put to great use online where it seems like it's increasingly easier to express extreme emotions of anger and shock. As emotions turn into memes, there is a lot to be desired in expressing the range of emotions between I AM SO HAPPY I AM ROLLING ON THE FLOOR

LAUGHING 🤪 and I AM SO SAD I AM DROWNING IN A PUDDLE OF MY OWN TEARS 😭.

3. Use in sequences/context

😊 + 🌅 = Grateful for another day.

😊 + 🙏 = That means a lot to me

😊 + 🌸 = I'm proud of you

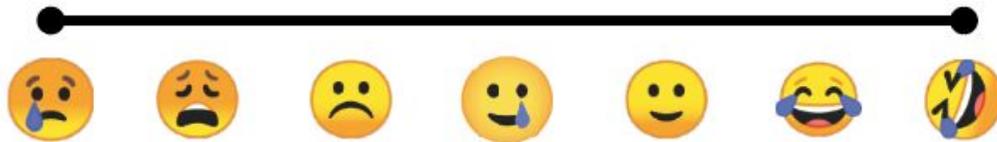
😊 + 🎓 = Graduating from high school

😊 + ❤️ = How I feel watching a friend learn to walk again

😊 + 🙌 = How I feel watching the kids from Parkland confront their critics

4. Breaking new ground

WEARY FACE 😞 is as close as unicode gets to conveying relief or the sentiment “thank goodness” but it’s inherit weariness communicates ‘stress’ more than ‘relieved’. **LOUDLY CRYING** 😭 is another alternative option but the negative connotations with these emojis (both exist in face-concerned sub group) makes **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR** 😊 a valuable, gentle and more positive alternative that fills a gap between WEARY and ROFL.



Examples in context
This video of a dog and cat becoming bfs 😊 This video of a dog and cat becoming bfs 😞 This video of a dog and cat becoming bfs 😭
I’m so glad to hear she’s healthy 😊 😊 I’m so glad to hear she’s healthy 😞 😊 I’m so glad to hear she’s healthy 😭 😊
He’s beautiful 😊 He’s beautiful 😞 He’s beautiful 😭
I hear the people sing, singing the songs of angry men... 😊 I hear the people sing, singing the songs of angry men... 😞 I hear the people sing, singing the songs of angry men... 😭
O Captain, My Captain 😊 O Captain, My Captain 😞 O Captain, My Captain 😭

C. Image distinctiveness

The **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR** 🥹 is distinct from existing images particularly within the smileys group.

It has been suggested amongst the ESC that **SLEEPY FACE** 😪 *could* be interpreted as **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR** 🥹 but this face is neither smiling, the eyes are closed, nor is there any evidence that it is being used to communicate feelings of triumph or empathy.

D. Completeness

The proposed **SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR** 🥹 provides a significant advance in coverage to depict various forms of appreciation and relief by filling a significant gap in existing emoji expression.

E. Frequently requested

Google gets regular requests for more emojis that can convey “thank you”..

SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR 🥹 is [the most popular emoji requested on Emojipedia](#). A HAPPY CRY emoji regularly appears on “[Emojis we wish existed](#)” lists. “Thank you” is the top queried search terms across stickers, gifs, and emojis in gboard and “Heart” and “Cry” are two of the top four queries for emojis in gboard.

Counter arguments to factors for exclusion

F. Overly specific

SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR 🥹 emoji is no more specific than it needs to be in order to represent the intended range of expression.

G. Open-ended

SLIGHTLY SMILING FACE WITH TEAR 🥹 is iconic and an experience in which people have positive associations with.

H. Already representable

The concept of catharsis that is 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

<input type="text" value="drooling face"/>	<input type="text" value="drooling face"/>	<input site:youtube.com"="" type="text" value="drooling face"/>
All Images Videos Shopp	All Images	All Images Videos Shoppin
About 148,000 results (0.30 seconds)	432,000 Results	About 74 results (0.32 seconds)

<input type="text" value="happy sad face"/>	<input type="text" value="happy sad face"/>	<input site:youtube.com"="" type="text" value="happy sad face"/>
All Images Shopping New	All Images	All Images Shopping News
About 167,000 results (0.30 seconds)	1,070,000 Results	About 265 results (0.22 seconds)

<input type="text" value="face with drool"/>	<input type="text" value="face with drool"/>	<input site:youtube.com"="" type="text" value="face with drool"/>
All Images Videos Sho	All Images	All Images Videos Shopping
About 27,100 results (0.29 seconds)	1,230,000 Results	About 8,970 results (0.46 seconds)

<input type="text" value="face with tear"/>	<input type="text" value="face with tear"/>	<input site:youtube.com"="" type="text" value="face with tear"/>
All Images News Shopp	All Images	All Images News Shopping
About 115,000 results (0.31 seconds)	11,400,000 Results	About 112 results (0.21 seconds)

<input type="text" value="smiling-with-tear -tears-of-joy"/>	<input type="text" value="smiling-with-tear -tears-of-joy"/>	<input type="text" value="smiling-with-tear -tears-of-joy"/>
All Images Videos Ma	All Images News Videos	All Images News Videos
42.000 Results Any time	About 29,700,000 results (0.45 seconds)	About 278,000 results (0.32 seconds)