

Recommendations for Emoji ZWJ Sequences for Unicode 14.0, Phase 1: Multi-skintoned Couples

From: Jennifer Daniel (Google) via the Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)

To: Unicode Technical Committee (UTC)

Date: 2019-04-25;

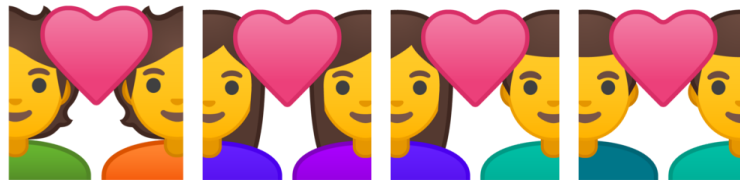
Last update: 2019-11-12;

I. Background

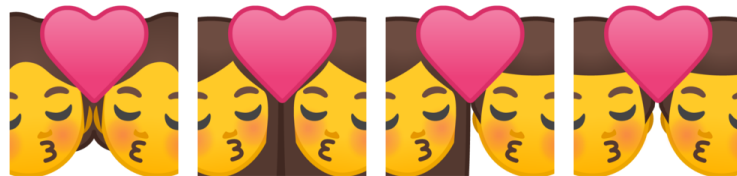
Last year, the ESC recommended Unicode move forward with their first multi-skintoned emojis: 71 variants of “couple holding hands”.

This leaves a number of emojis that include two or more people with missing “skintone” variants.

II. Proposal Overview



Above: Couple with Heart



Couple Kissing

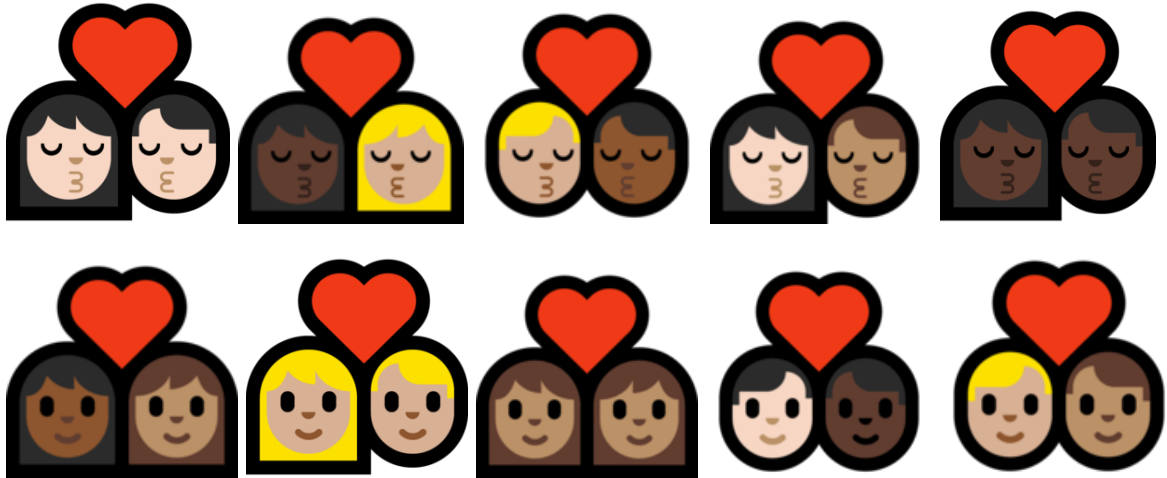
The Emoji Subcommittee is recommending 200 new RGI sequences be added to Emoji 14.0 to fill these gaps and create a meaningful user experience. This follows priorities set out in [L2/19-101](#), as well as details of vendors intention to display skintone inclusive emoji designs from 2019 onward.

This proposal does not include the addition of skin-tones for families or other multi-person emojis such as **WRESTLERS** 🤼 and **PEOPLE WITH BUNNY EARS** 🐰 which can be addressed in a future proposal if there is interest.

IV. Selection factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility

At least one major platform and android app support non-rgi variations of the couple with heart and couple kissing emoji with multi-skintone options.



Above: Shared skin tone support is not RGI but is supported by Microsoft and Facebook.

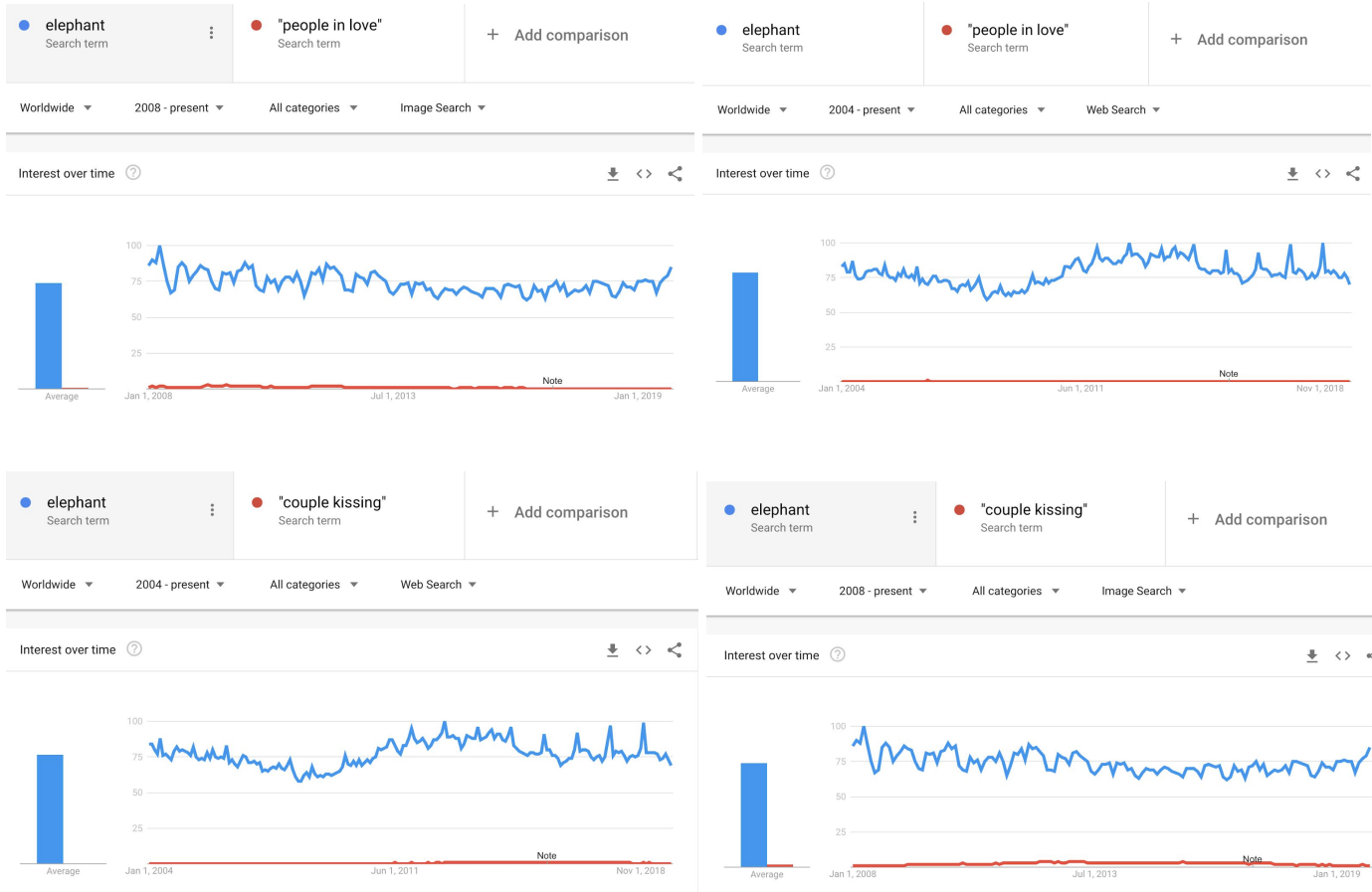
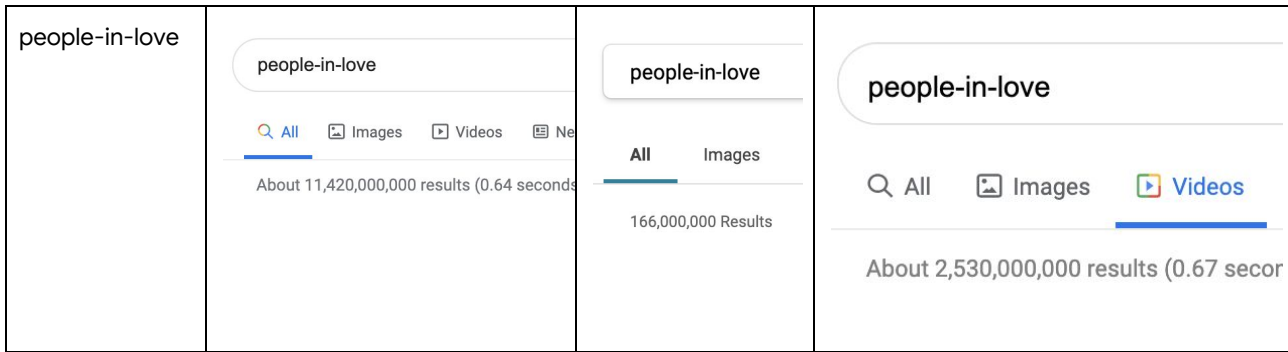
B. Expected use

1. Frequency

Usage is expected to be reasonably high given that the existing COUPLE-WITH-HEART 🧑❤️🧑 and KISS 🍷 emoji [perform above median frequency](#).

Search term	Google Search	Bing Search	Google Image Search	Google Trends: Web	Google Trends: Image
couple-kissing	401,000,000	1,550,000	99,900,000	See below	See below
people-in-love	11,420,000,000	166,000,000	2,530,000,000	See below	See below

Search term	Google Search	Bing Search	Google Image Search
couple-kissing			



2. Multiple usages

Can represent the general concept of love and affection.

3. Use in sequences

N/a this is a ZWJ sequence.

4. Breaking new ground

COUPLE-WITH-HEART 🧑❤️🧑 and KISS 🧑💋🧑 emoji are the only two emoji explicitly amorous in nature (Existing emojis that clearly depict two individuals in contact: 🧑🧑, 🧑🧑, 🧑🧑, all of which are ambiguous and platonic).

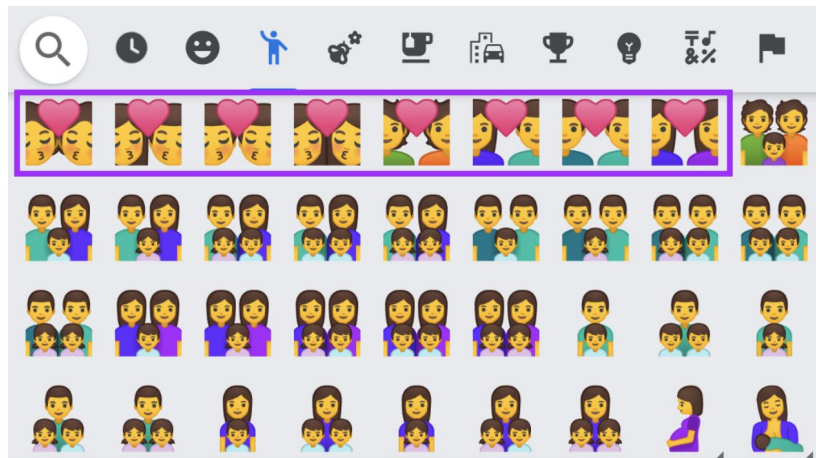
C. Image distinctiveness



Above: The New Yorker covers by Frank Viva, Art Spiegelma, and Olimpia Zagnoli

A multi-skintoned COUPLE-WITH-HEART 🧑❤️👩 and KISS 🧑❤️👩 is iconic and symbolic in a manner that is distinct from the existing RGI COUPLE-WITH-HEART 🧑❤️👩 and KISS 🧑❤️👩 emoji. Unlike the existing emoji which offer no skintone variation, supporting multi-skintones elevates them to represent the celebration of love. Love is love no matter if it's between two men, two women, or anyone of any gender or of any race.

D. Completeness



This is a continuation of a multi-year initiative to roll-out skintone support for multi-person emojis.

V. Selection factors — Exclusion

F. Overly specific

No, this is a fairly generic and iconic.

G. Open-ended

No, this is not part of a set of similar items.

H. Already representable

No.

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.

K. Faulty comparison




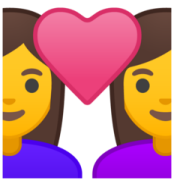
Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.





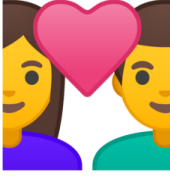




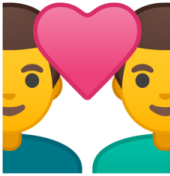




















L. Exact Images

An exact image is not required.

VI. Chart

Many multi-person ZWJ Sequences that are Recommended for General Interchange (RGI) use a standard format of WOMAN (or MAN) + WOMAN (or MAN). These scale simply by adding skintone modifiers to each sequence create a skintone variant options. The Emoji Subcommittee recommends the addition of the following 8 Family ZWJ Sequences + associated skin tones.

Number	Raw emoji	Code	Emoji	CLDR Short Name	Number of Variants
1		U+1F491		Couple With Heart	25
2		👩 U+1F469 U+200D ❤️ U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D 👩 U+1F469		Couple With Heart: Woman, Woman	25

3		 U+1F469 U+200D  U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D  U+1F468		Couple With Heart: Woman, Man	25
4		 U+1F468 U+200D  U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D  U+1F468		Couple With Heart: Man, Man	25
5		U+1F48F		Kiss	25
6		 U+1F469 U+200D  U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D  U+1F48B U+200D  U+1F469		Kiss: Woman, Woman	25
7		 U+1F469 U+200D  U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D  U+1F48B U+200D  U+1F468		Kiss: Woman, Man	25
8		 U+1F468 U+200D  U+2764 U+FE0F U+200D  U+1F48B U+200D  U+1F468		Kiss: Man, Man	25

1F469 1F3FB 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FF; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: light skin, dark skin

1F469 1F3FC 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FB; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-light skin, light skin
1F469 1F3FC 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FC; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-light skin, medium-light skin
1F469 1F3FC 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FD; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-light skin, medium skin
1F469 1F3FC 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FE; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-light skin, medium-dark skin
1F469 1F3FC 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FF; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-light skin, dark skin

1F469 1F3FD 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FB; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium skin, light skin
1F469 1F3FD 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FC; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium skin, medium-light skin
1F469 1F3FD 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FD; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium skin, medium skin
1F469 1F3FD 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FE; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium skin, medium-dark skin
1F469 1F3FD 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FF; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium skin, dark skin

1F469 1F3FE 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FB; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-dark skin, light skin
1F469 1F3FE 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FC; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-dark skin, medium-light skin
1F469 1F3FE 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FD; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-dark skin, medium skin
1F469 1F3FE 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FE; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-dark skin, medium-dark skin
1F469 1F3FE 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FF; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: medium-dark skin, dark skin

1F469 1F3FF 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FB; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: dark skin, light skin
1F469 1F3FF 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FC; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: dark skin, medium-light skin
1F469 1F3FF 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FD; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: dark skin, medium skin
1F469 1F3FF 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FE; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: dark skin, medium-dark skin
1F469 1F3FF 200D 2764 FE0F 200D 1F468 1F3FF; Emoji_ZWJ_Sequence; woman and man with heart: dark skin, dark skin

VIII. Reference Documents

- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/18228-inter-skintone-emoji.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19101-esc-rgi-priorities.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19265-handshake.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html#family>
- <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/18223r-uts51-skin-tone-gender.pdf>