

# Proposal for Emoji: BEANS

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Date: **November 5, 2019 -- Revised September 9, 2020**

Emoji Name: BEAN

Sort Order: in the Food-Vegetable category, after PEANUTS

Reference Emoji: Elephant

Keywords: SEED | LEGUME | PEA | SOY | HEAD | HIT | SECRET | MONEY



*Proposal for a BEAN emoji.*

*Credit: Danil Kashapov. Free for use in context of this proposal.*

## Abstract

The bean is just as cultural as it is culinary. It can indicate different types of seeds, from fava to coffee beans; and be used colloquially to refer to someone's head, hitting someone or disclosing one's secrets ("spilling the beans"). The bean is also a familiar cultural symbol, dating from the familiar magic beans of the English fairytale "Jack and the Beanstalk" to the "The Bean" in Chicago's Millennium Park.

As such, we propose a BEAN emoji to represent these concepts:

- Food / Ingredient
- Head / Brain
- Vegetarianism / Veganism
- Exuberance
- Flatulence
- Nonsense
- Money
- Infants

## Introduction

Beans have been cultivated for more than 8,000 years in Thailand<sup>1</sup> and gathered for even

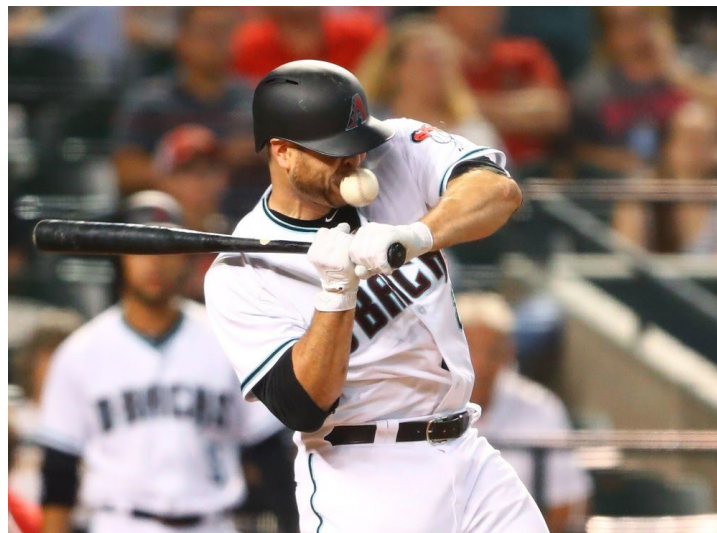
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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bean#History>

longer in Afghanistan and the foothills of the Himalayas. To date, there are about 40,000 varieties of beans around the world<sup>2</sup>, though only a small number of them are regularly consumed.

Beans are a regular source of protein and a key ingredient in many dishes, such as baked beans, refried beans and chili. Furthermore, beans are commonplace in vegetarian and vegan diets given that many meat substitutes use varieties of the ingredient<sup>3</sup>, including peas and soybean-based products. Suffice it to say, meeting someone who has never eaten or does not know what a bean is would be rare.

Yet it would be limiting to just consider beans as just an ingredient. Colloquially, it can be used to refer to one's head or brain<sup>4</sup> or as a term of endearment<sup>5</sup>. The plural form of beans can be used to indicate abundance or nonsense<sup>6</sup>, such as saying that a person is "full of beans"; or to tell someone to disclose their secrets, as in "spill the beans." The association between eating beans and becoming flatulent has also inspired the use of the [phrase "full of beans" to suggest that someone is gassy](#)<sup>7</sup>. Beans can also be used to refer to money, as in "counting beans." As a verb, bean can refer to using an object to strike someone or "bean" them in the face.



*Former Arizona Diamondbacks player Chris Iannetta getting "beamed" during a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2017 ([USA Today](#)).*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bean#History>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_meat\\_substitutes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_meat_substitutes)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bean>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Beans>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bean>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=full+of+beans>

Bean has also come to be associated with a number of familiar figures and symbols in pop culture, such as the [British sitcom character Mr. Bean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Bean)<sup>8</sup> (pictured above). The Cloud Gate sculpture in Chicago's Millennium Park is also [commonly referred to as "The Bean."](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_Gate)<sup>9</sup> named so because of how its shape resembles that of the ingredient.



*Actor Rowan Atkinson reprising his role as Mr. Bean during the Goodwood Circuit Revival in 2009. ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Bean))*

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<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr.\\_Bean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Bean)

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud\\_Gate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_Gate)



*Pictured is the Cloud Gate sculpture, nicknamed “The Bean,” in Chicago’s Millennium Park  
([TimeOut](#))*

## **Selection Factors Inclusion**

### **A. Compatibility**



As far as we are aware, there are no emoji for beans on any platform. There are many emoji for recognizable dishes that use beans, such as TACO (🌮), BURRITO (🌯) and the upcoming FALAFEL. However, a BEAN emoji would be able to refer to more than just specific dishes as it could be used to indicate colloquialisms or cultural symbols.

### **B. Expected Usage Level**

#### **Evidence of Frequency**

We have included searches for both “bean” and “beans” because, as the previous section has stated, the use of the singular or plural forms could indicate different meanings. We also believe that users will use either term interchangeably when searching for the ingredient.



Google Search:



[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 1 350 000 000 results (1,13 seconds)



[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 1 520 000 000 results (0,76 seconds)



[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [Maps](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

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About 740 000 000 results (0,63 seconds)

Google Video Search:



beans



Q All

Images

Videos

Maps

News

More

Settings

Tools

About 201 000 000 results (0,30 seconds)



elephant



Q All

Images

Videos

News

Maps

More

Settings

Tools

About 125 000 000 results (0,37 seconds)



bean



Q All

Images

Videos

Maps

News

More

Settings

Tools

About 189 000 000 results (0,29 seconds)

Bing:



bean



All

Images

Videos

Maps

News

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My saves

64 300 000 Results



Date ▼

Language ▼

Region ▼



beans



All

Images

Videos

Maps

News

I

My saves

53 300 000 Results

Date ▾

Language ▾

Region ▾



elephant



All

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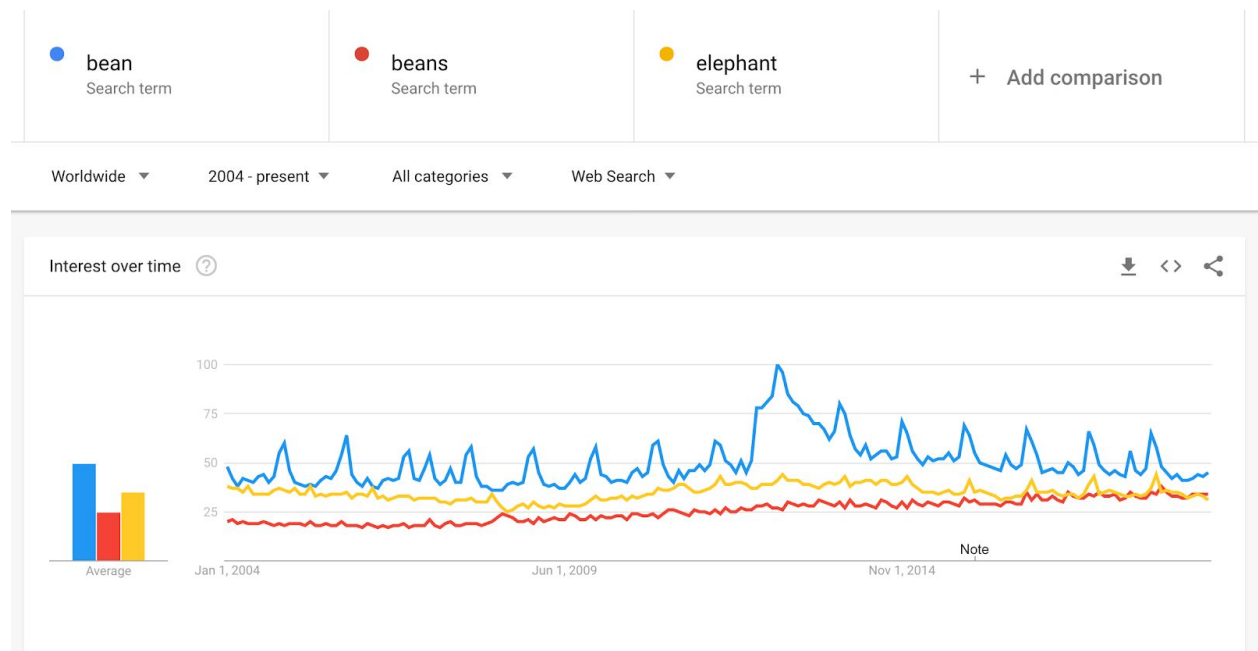
61 300 000 Results

Date ▾

Language ▾

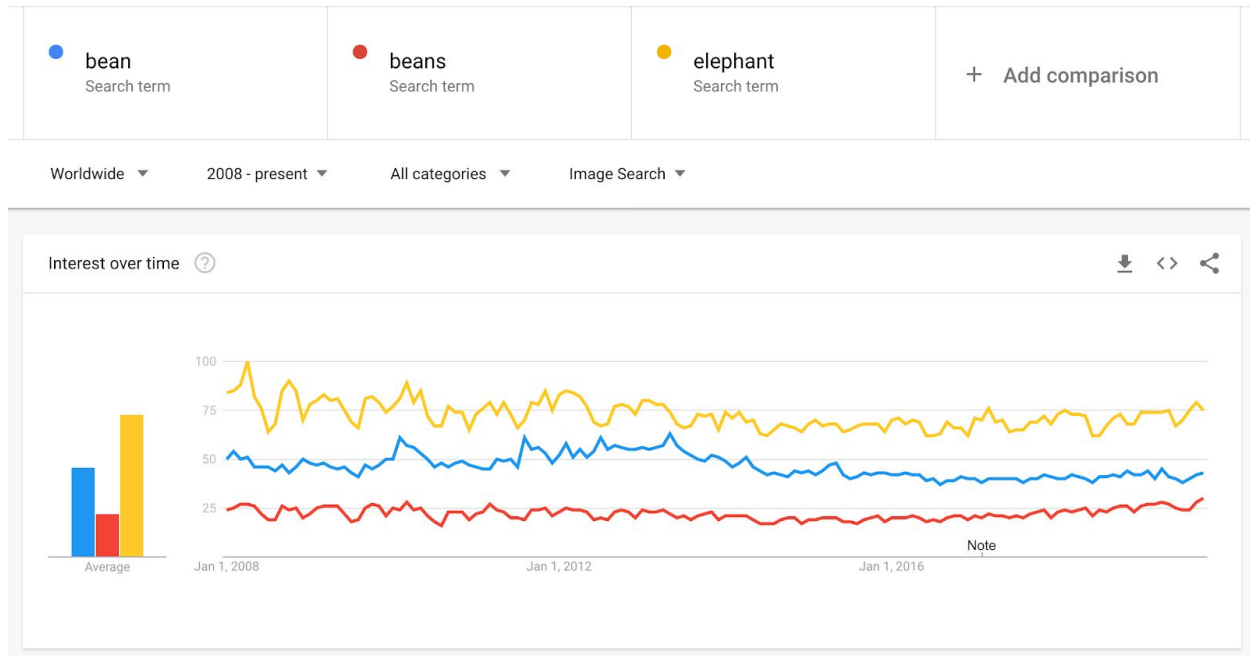
Region ▾

## Google Trends: Web Search

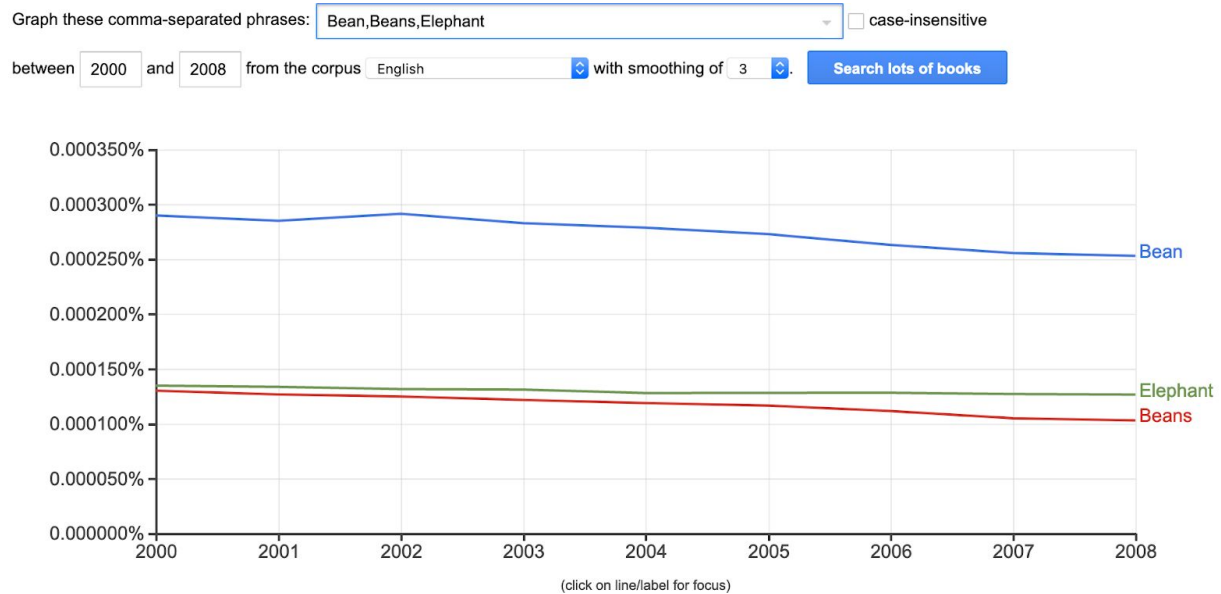




## Google Trends: Image Search



## Ngram Viewer:



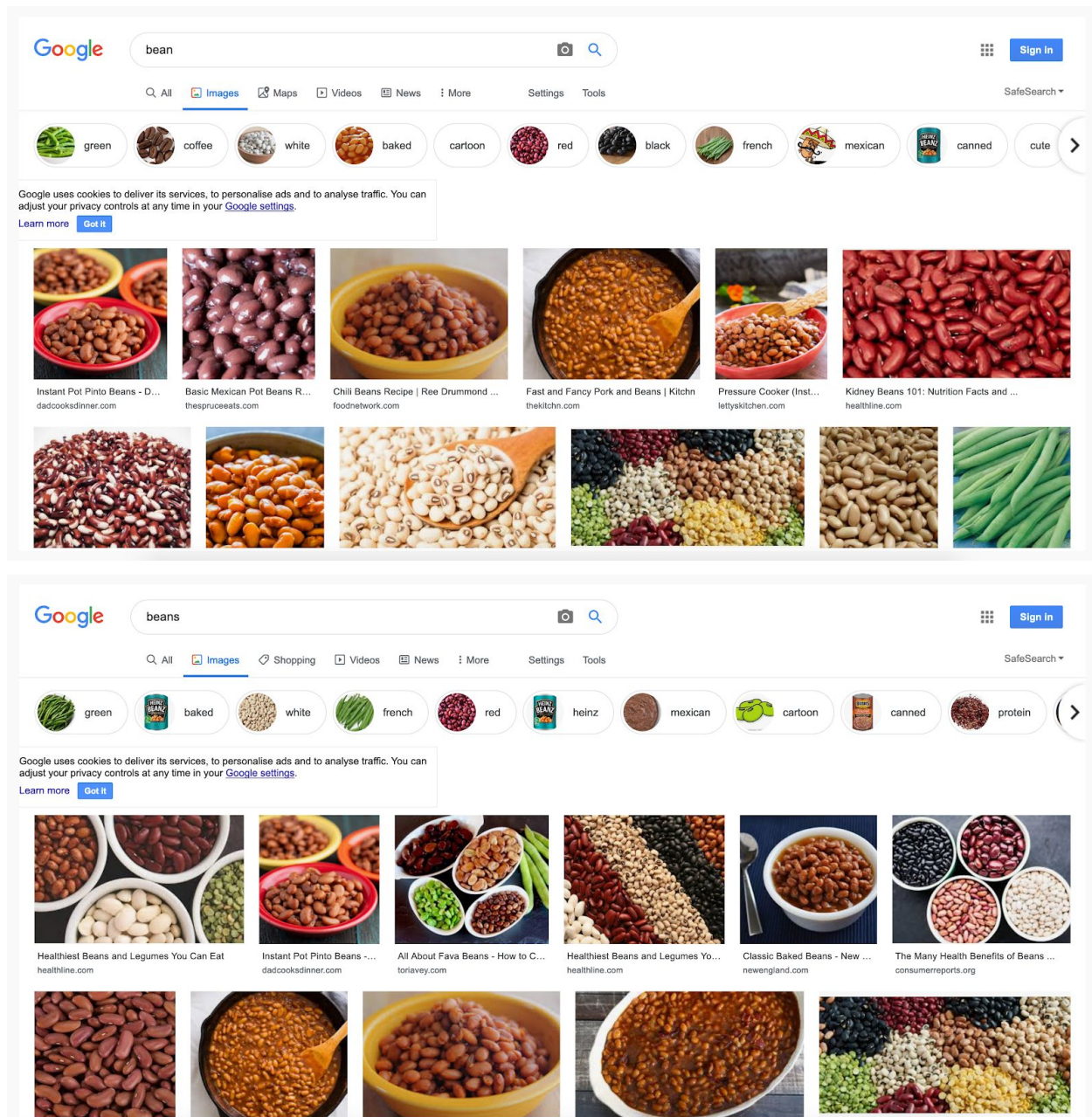
## Multiple Usages

BEAN can stand for different varieties of the ingredient, such as kidney or pinto beans, or



related dishes, such as chili or pork and beans. It can also be used to refer to colloquialisms and cultural symbols, as referenced previously in the introduction. Bean and beans are also commonly-searched terms, as shown in the frequency section of this proposal.

A Google search of both “bean” and “beans” using the Tor Browser, which masks browser and device information, shows both the ingredient by itself and its use in different dishes.



*Pictured are the Google Image search results for the search terms “bean” and “beans” as of Oct. 29, 2019 (Google)*

We believe these statistics shows the versatility of a BEAN emoji to refer to different types of recipes. Additionally, its use in informal speech suggests that an emoji could come to stand in for a number of colloquialisms. As such, there should be a BEAN emoji given that it is a common ingredient and its cultural relevance.

## Use in Sequences

The BEAN can be used in a number of sequences with other emojis, including:

HOT BEVERAGE (☕) + BEAN = COFFEE BEAN

PERSON (🧑) + BEAN = HUMAN BEING

BASEBALL (⚾) + BEAN = BEANING

SEEDLING (🌱) + BEAN = GROW

## Breaking New Ground

As stated earlier, there are currently no emojis or anything equivalent to BEAN.

## C. Image Distinctiveness

The BEAN is distinct from other emoji. The closest emoji in terms of visuals would be the potato (🥔), because of its curved, oblong shape. However, we believe they are both distinct enough for users to be able to tell them apart, as can be seen through the color and texture of the emoji.

## D. Completeness

N/A

## E. Frequently Requested

Bean was one of the most requested emojis in 2019, according to an article published Feb. 22, 2019, on Emojipedia. A search for “bean emoji” on Reddit and Twitter also shows a number of users questioning why there is not a BEAN emoji yet<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> [https://twitter.com/search?q=bean%20emoji&src=typed\\_query](https://twitter.com/search?q=bean%20emoji&src=typed_query)



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## Top Emoji Requests 2019



- Person With Cane

### Food and Drink

- Bean
- Blackberry
- [Bubble Tea](#) (shortlisted for 2020)
- White Wine
- Slime
- BBQ / Grill
- Lime
- Durian

### Animals

- Honey Badger
- Triceratops

*Pictured are screen captures of Emojipedia's article on "Top Emoji Requests 2019" published Feb. 22, 2019. ([Emojipedia](#))*

## Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

The BEAN is both specific enough to refer to a particular ingredient but versatile enough to be used in reference to different kinds of dishes that are not in the official Unicode library. It can also be used to stand in for different kinds of colloquialisms and cultural symbols.

## G. Open Ended

We do not believe that the inclusion of a BEAN emoji would open up a new category.

## H. Already Representable

Beans are not represented in the official Unicode library, and a search for “bean” and “beans” on Emojipedia only lists PAW PRINTS (🐾), DANGO (🍡) and BURRITO (🌮). The closest available emoji to beans are the Jelly Belly Candy Company’s [jelly bean-themed emoji keyboard for iOS devices](#)<sup>11</sup>. Furthermore, the SEEDLING (🌱) only shows a sprout without its seed and, even then, users would want separate emojis to distinguish between the two.

## I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

As an ingredient, beans are not copyrighted. However, bean can be used to refer to the character Mr. Bean from the British sitcom and film of the same name.

## J. Transient

As stated previously, the cultivation of beans goes back thousands of years. It is a common ingredient in many dishes, so its appearance would be instantly recognizable across different demographics. For these reasons, it would be unlikely that beans would lose any cultural relevance given that it is a part of many culinary traditions.

## K. Faulty Comparison

N/A

## Other Information

### Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category:

Canonical Combining Class:

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<sup>11</sup> <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/jelly-belly-emojis/id1265899950>

Bidirectional Class:  
Decomposition Type:  
Decomposition Mapping:  
Numeric Type:  
Numeric Value:  
Bidirectional Mirrored:  
Name:  
ISO Comment:  
Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

## Authors

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