

Gesture Emoji for Consideration, Unicode 15.0

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Introduction

The Emoji Subcommittee (ESC) is tasked with managing incoming emoji proposals and preparing these for submission to the Unicode Technical Committee (UTC). In addition, the ESC makes recommendations on proposals forwarded to the UTC Document Register. This document combines a number of sources to present this list of gesture based emoji we'd like to consider for addition in Unicode Version 15.0. Sources are linked within this document.

Background

Document [L2/20-274](#) provides ESC's guidelines around types of gestures and hand shapes that are used in communicative contexts. The emoji subcommittee has reviewed this document and has compiled the following 29 gestures which may be suitable for encoding in the future. This does not yet form a recommendation but is intended to keep the UTC informed as to work in progress.

Below is a listing of documented common hand gestures and actions, drawing on a number of published sources. This document focuses on hands not yet encoded, but that the emoji-subcommittee is interested in investigating further as potential emoji candidates. This does not represent an exhaustive list of gestures that could make for strong proposals, just those commonly represented in the literature.

For each we give an example image with a broad meaning. We then give a preliminary indication of whether we think it is worth investigating and proposing this gesture as an emoji. We indicate whether the gesture represents an emblem (fixed culture-specific meaning) or an action. Some gestures are already representable as 2 characters and noted as such.

The potential candidates are listed by group as to whether the ESC believes a good proposal can be submitted. "On larger list" means that we have received a proposal that meets criteria for inclusion but has not yet been included in a set of recommended

emoji for the full technical committee. “Already representable” means that the ESC believes the sense conveyed by the gesture is already representable in the current emoji set, and any proposal for that gesture would have to make a very strong case for additional senses not yet represented.







For more information on submitting a proposal for an emoji, see the [Submitting Emoji Proposals](#) page on the Unicode website for the latest information. For more information on submitting a proposal for a gesture emoji, see the ESC [Guidelines around Gestures and Emoji](#) (PDF). For a list of all emoji that have been proposed see the [Emoji Requests](#) page on the Unicode website. Note that some proposals may have been declined because the proposal was not well-formed, not because the proposed emoji lacked merit.


Source

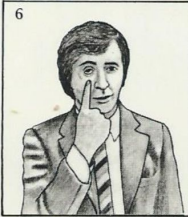



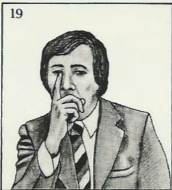



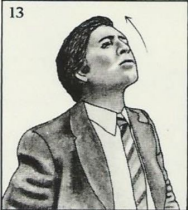

Below is a list of some key sources used to look for gestures that could make potential emoji candidates. Some gestures appear across multiple references. These sources may provide support in a proposal for a specific emoji.

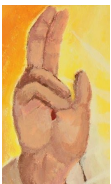









Short Ref	Reference	Summary	Link
Morris et al.	Morris, Desmond, Peter Collett, Peter Marsh & Marie O'Shaughnessy. 1979. Gestures: Their origins and distribution. London: Jonathan Cape.	A survey of the meaning of 20 gestures across Europe.	WorldCat entry
Morris 1994	Morris, Desmond. 1994. Bodytalk: The meaning of human gestures. London: Jonathan Cape.	A synthesis of gesture descriptions from a range of literature	WorldCat entry
Caradec	Caradec, François 2018. Dictionary of gestures: Expressive comportments and movements in use around the world. MIT Press.	A listing gestures of observed by the author	WorldCat entry
Kendon	Kendon, Adam. 2004. Gesture: Visible action as utterance. Cambridge University Press.	A work on the communicative role of gesture	WorldCat entry








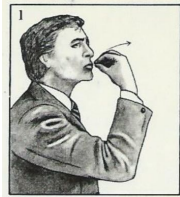











Table 1: Emoji Worth Investigating Further for Future Encoding

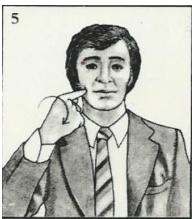

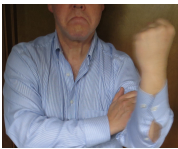



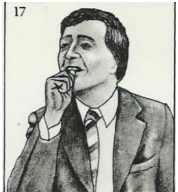



#	Meaning	Example	ESC recommends investigating	Closest Match	Unicode / Suggested Name	Type	Notes
1	Push		On larger list		RIGHTWARD PUSHING HAND	action, emblem	- - - -
2	Push		On larger list		LEFTWARD PUSHING HAND	action, emblem	- - - -
3	Disagree		On larger list		FIST WITH INDEX FINGER OVER THUMB	action	- - - -








4	Polite, fancy		On larger list		FIST WITH RAISED LITTLE FINGER	emblem	----
5	Acknowledgement, sound		On larger list		HAND SNAPPING FINGERS	action	----
6	Holiday		On larger list		HAND THROWING POWDER	emblem	----
7	Allegiance		On larger list		THREE FINGER SALUTE	emblem	----
8	Ritual pose		On larger list		HAND WITH INDEX FINGER AND THUMB FORMING A CIRCLE	emblem	----

9	Watching, told you so, disbelief		Proposal under review		-----	emblem	Morris Gesture 6. Proposal. Image from Morris.
10	disgust, sneer, snarl		Medium confidence, requires proposal		SNEERING FACE	action	Unclear if distinct at emoji sizes. Look for evidence of existence in established messaging platforms.
11	secret, alert		Low confidence, requires proposal		NOSE TAP	emblem	Morris Gesture 19. Could be a ZWJ character 👉👉 Unclear if distinct at emoji sizes. Unclear if motion needs indicating. Image from Morris.
12	meh or hitchhike or 'this guy'		Low confidence, requires proposal		FIST WITH THUMB FACING SIDEWAYS	emblem	Unclear if associated meanings are sufficiently common use.
13	antagonistic beckoning		Low confidence, requires proposal		-----	emblem	Morris Gesture 13. difficult to represent movement. Image from Morris.

14	benediction, blessing		Low confidence, requires proposal		----	emblem	Unclear if there is common utility. Image source
15	Holding something		No confidence, requires proposal		----	action	No known common use.
16	talking hand, yada yada yada		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	action, emblem	note: there's no consistency between vendors on fingers splayed or not on current PINCHING HAND. Image supplied.
17	finger gun		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Already available: gun 🖊️ pointing 🙌 Image source, Wikipedia
18	victory		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem, action	---- Image source

19	say again, what?		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time	 	----	action, emblem	Could be a ZWJ character   . Image source
20	think		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	action	---- Image source
21	kiss, perfect, pleased		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time	 	----	emblem ; action	Morris Gesture 1. Already representable with a sequence   . Image from Morris.
22	fool, clown, idiot		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time	 	----	emblem	Morris Gesture 3. Already somewhat representable with sequence   or   . Image source

23	mockery		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Morris Gesture 5. Already somewhat representable with sequence 🙌😄. Could be a ZWJ character. Image from Morris.
24	offensive gesture		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Morris Gesture 7. Taboo gesture, unlikely to be encoded. Image source, Wikipedia
25	cuckold, evil eye		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Morris Gesture 11. Already representable with 🙌
26	anger, nothing		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Morris Gesture 17. Could be a ZWJ character 🙌👍. Image from Morris.
27	up yours, offensive gesture		Already representable; no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Morris Gesture 20. Taboo gesture. Microsoft uses a non-RGI sequence in their own products. Image Source

28	loser		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	emblem	Use too narrow. Image source, Wikipedia
29	stink, smelly		Already representable, no proposal needed at this time		----	action	Could be represented by   or  . Image source