



Chain with Broken Link Emoji Proposal

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To: Unicode Technical Committee

Date: July 14, 2022

I. Identification

Sample Image	Proposed Unicode and CLDR name	Possible CLDR English keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
	Chain with Broken Link	broken, freedom, 404, cuffs,	

Note: Codepoints for this proposed zwj sequence: U+26D3 U+FE0F U+200D U+1F4A5

II. Images

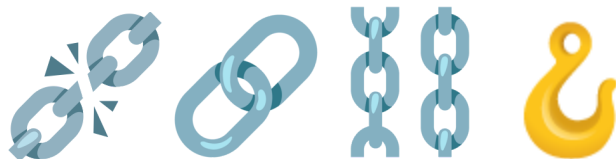


License

I certify I am the creator of this image and have appropriate licenses for use by the UTC.

III. Sort location

Tool



II. Selection factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility

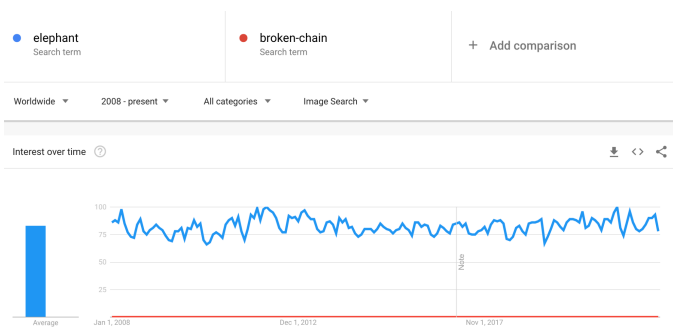
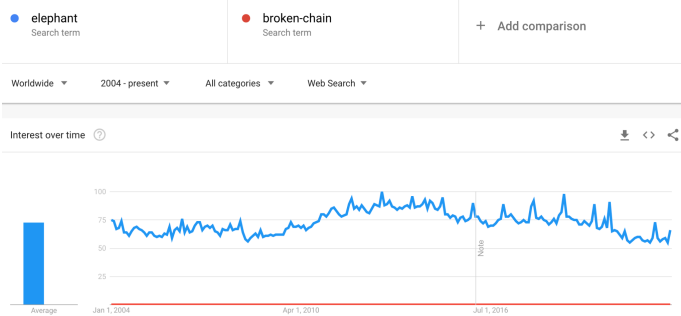
No, this particular emotive isn't required for compatibility with an existing platform

B. Expected use

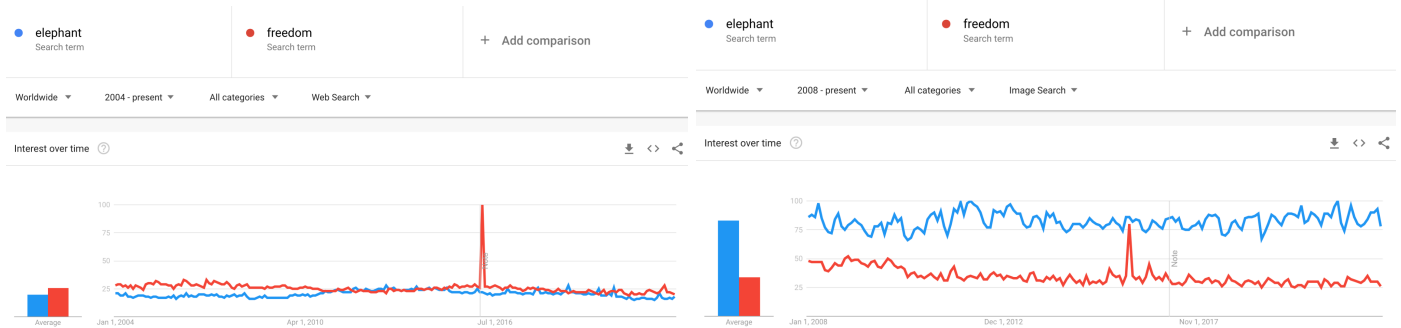
1. Frequency

	Google search	Bing Search	Google Video Search
broken-chain	<p>Google search for 'broken-chain' showing approximately 314,000,000 results in 0.69 seconds. Navigation options include All, Images, and Shopping.</p>	<p>Bing Search for 'broken-chain' showing 219,000 Results. Navigation options include ALL, IMAGES, and SHOPPING. Filtered by 'Any time'.</p>	<p>Google Video Search for 'broken-chain' showing about 24,600,000 results in 0.37 seconds. Navigation options include All, Images, Shopping, and Videos.</p>
broken-link	<p>Google search for 'broken-link' showing about 2,080,000,000 results. Navigation options include All, Images, and News.</p>	<p>Bing Search for 'broken-link' showing 5,880,000,000 Results. Navigation options include ALL and IMAGES.</p>	<p>Google Video Search for 'broken-link' showing about 300,000,000 results in 0.51 seconds. Navigation options include All, Images, News, and Shopping.</p>
freedom	<p>Google search for 'freedom' showing about 2,420,000,000 results in 0.81 seconds. Navigation options include All, Images, News, and Books.</p>	<p>Bing Search for 'freedom' showing 41,700,000 Results. Navigation options include ALL, NEWS, IMAGES, and VIDEO. Filtered by 'Any time'.</p>	<p>Google Video Search for 'freedom' showing about 254,000,000 results in 0.45 seconds. Navigation options include All, Images, and News.</p>

Broken-chain for Google Trends Web Search and Google Trends Image Search:



Freedom for Google Trends Web Search and Google Trends Image Search:



2. Multiple usages

A “broken chain” is a very ambidextrous symbol. Metal chains have been in use since 225 B.C. and have come to represent a myriad of concepts, all of which a “broken chain” inherits (depending on the context in which it is used)

- Imprisonment (broken = freedom)
- Shared Destiny (broken = breaking a cycle)
- Interconnectivity (broken = disconnected)
- Your origins (broken = snapped bonds)
- Eternity (broken = breaking a cycle)
- Strength (broken = release, both mentally and physically)
- Relationships (broken = end of a friendship)

It is a symbol we’ve all seen a million times to represent a range of complex concepts currently unrepresented in Unicode.

- Broken hyperlink
- Broken Supply Chain
- Deciphered crypto
- etc.

3. Use in sequences

Can be used with non-face emoji to *literally* depict unshackling



Can be used with face emoji to *metaphorically* indicate “a desire to be released” e.g.:



Can be used to indicate a link is broken (again literally as a piece of metal or metaphorically as in a hyperlink)



4. Breaking new ground

This emoji fills an important gap in existing emoji options. Despite over 3,600 emoji, none communicate the freedom from imprisonment, disconnection, or the concept of “broken” more generally.

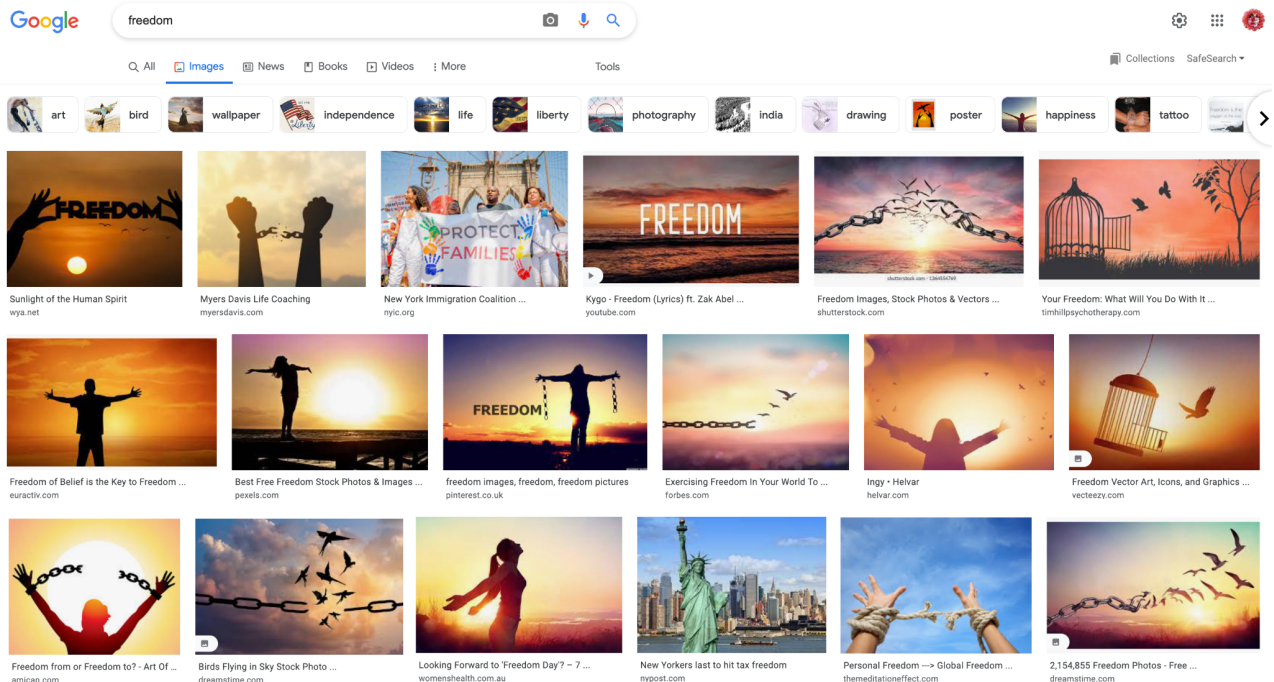
While there is an existing set of “lock” emoji (🔒 🔓) as you can see, the visual distinction between these characters leaves a lot to be desired: “Locked” is nearly indistinguishable from “unlocked”. While seemingly semantically related to this proposal, a lock has come to symbolize “secrets” not emancipation, freedom, or the breaking of a sequence of events. A “breaking chains” emoji is both meaningfully differentiated visually and semantically from existing emoji.

C. Image distinctiveness

This emoji is quite distinctive from existing emojis, even the ones it represents breaking.



This symbol is used globally to commemorate Abolition Days, Emancipation Days, and Independence Days. It is emblematic of the concept of “freedom”. Despite the open-ended nature of the word “freedom”, a google image query shows that broken chains are amongst the most commonly associated with that word.



Screenshots above indicate a strong “link” (Sorry, pun intended) between a broken chains/links as a visual representation for “Freedom”

D. Completeness

Any sense of breaking cannot be communicated by another emoji or sequence of emoji.

For example, “🔗🚫” reads as “chains prohibited”. Arguably, semantically similar but the specificity of brokenness is crucial to communicate emancipation.

Many emojis can be paired together to create a sequence of events. A broken chain emoji would partner nicely with chain emoji 🔗/🔗🔗. Other emoji that follow a similar pattern include (📷/📷🔥), (📖, 📖), (🔒, 🔒) (📱 / 📱) etc.

III. Selection factors — Exclusion**F. Overly specific**

No. This design is iconic of the abstract concept of brokenness (mentally, physically, etc.) and the literal breakage of any chain.

G. Open-ended

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

H. Already representable

No. No existing emoji can indicate the breakage of something or the disconnection of another thing.

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.