

Re: Emoji Subcommittee Report for UTC #175 (2023Q2)
From: Jennifer Daniel on the behalf of the Emoji Subcommittee (ESC)
Date: 2023-04-11

1. [PRI #473](#) (Unicode 15.1.0 Alpha Review) Feedback

Three pieces of feedback were received. Each one suggested alternative ZWJ sequences associated with *phoenix* (**bird + ZWJ + fire**: [ID20230302075201](#), [ID20230403162043](#), and [ID20230403171513](#)).

The first advocated for the use of **bird + ZWJ + heart on fire [heart + ZWJ + fire]**, while the second and third ones suggested that the elements of the current ZWJ sequence be reversed, specifically **fire + ZWJ + bird**.

Recommendations: The ordering of the elements in this particular ZWJ sequence is simple (the least amount of codepoints) and consistent with others of similar nature which follow a pattern of noun + modifier, such as:

- 🐻 Polar bear
(U+1F43B 🐻 BEAR FACE + ZWJ + U+2744 ❄️ SNOWFLAKE + U+FE0F),
- ❤️ Heart on fire
(U+2764 ❤️ HEAVY BLACK HEART + U+FE0F + ZWJ + U+1F525 🔥 FIRE)
- 🐦 Black bird
(U+1F426 🐦 BIRD + ZWJ + U+2B1B ◼️ BLACK LARGE SQUARE)

With this structure, “modifier” can be anything and indicates the “noun” part of the sequence is being modified. “Noun+modifier” order is commonly observed in many languages.¹

Predictable ordering of the elements in ZWJ sequences is easier for designers and developers to scale and predict and the people who use emoji directly benefit. Therefore, we recommend no change.

The ESC also notes that the use of a ZWJ sequence is merely a convenience mechanism allowing a minimally meaningful “fallback” appearance before the emoji has been implemented on a particular platform, as opposed to a “missing glyph” appearance that would otherwise occur if the emoji were instead encoded as a new character. We believe the current element ordering is sufficient for conveying the concept for a short period of time until platforms have supported it.

Action Item for Rick McGowan, ESC: Respond to the PRI #473 feedback submitters for

¹ 879 languages have Noun+Adj vs 373 for Adj+Noun (of which English is one) <https://wals.info/feature/87A#4/40.01/257.50>

ReportIDs [ID20230302075201](#), [ID20230403162043](#), and [ID20230403171513](#).

2. ESC Priorities for Unicode Version 16.0 & Beyond ([L2/23-091](#))

This document aims to specify the current priorities of the ESC and in doing so, outline the order and approximate timeframe in which the UTC may expect to see recommendations for new provisional candidates. This is not a proposal, and separate proposals would be required for any additions listed.

3. Emoji for Unicode Version 16.0

As a reminder, the intake cycle for proposals for new emoji to be considered for Unicode Version 16.0 ended at the end of July 2022. Shortly after, the Unicode Consortium decided to postpone the release of Unicode Version 16.0 (see [L2/22-270](#)) until 2024. As previously noted in the Q1 ESC report ([L2/23-010R](#)) and on the [UTC blog](#), the Emoji Subcommittee has delayed the intake of Unicode Version 17.0 proposals for new emoji until April 2024 to align with the Unicode Technical Committee schedule.