

Reading

EMOJI

Say it with a smile (or a sushi symbol)

1. How do you express **emotions** when you send a text message? Why, with emoji, of course!
2. The first emoji set came out in Japan in 1999. It included a few faces, some weather icons, and a variety of objects you'd see around the city. Since then, hundreds of images have been added, and Emoji has become its own language.
3. Is Emoji a **universal** language? Though a smile is a smile in every corner of the world, other images aren't as **clear-cut**. Are you joking or **flirting** when you send someone a **winking** emoji? What does the raised hands emoji mean to you?
4. Emoji are sometimes used as a secret language or code. Close friends use emoji to express **inside jokes**. Secret codes aren't always **harmless**. Some kids use emoji to discuss sex, drugs, and alcohol. When adults **crack the codes**, kids just come up with new ones.
5. Some **critics** say that the use of emoji is a big step backward for mankind. After all, humans moved from communicating with pictographs to developing spoken and written language after learning the **limits** of drawings. Is the fastest-growing language making humanity lazy?
6. Despite these criticisms, emoji are not going away anytime soon. In 2015, Oxford Dictionary named an emoji (Face with Tears of Joy) its Word of the Year. Which emoji would best describe the current year?

"With its poodles, noodles, and happy poos, Emoji is now the fastest-growing language in the UK."

—Jonathan Jones, journalist

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What is the meaning of the subtitle?
2. What does the author infer about the winking emoji?
3. Why does the passage mention alcohol?
4. What is paragraph 5 mainly about?
5. Choose an emoji to represent each paragraph.
Compare your choices with a classmate's choices.

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. My teenage daughter and her friends have so many _____.
I never know what they're laughing about.
2. _____ said the Word of the Year should always be a real word, not a picture.
3. I have so many _____ running through me.
I am happy, scared, and excited all at the same time.
4. Make sure you add a _____ emoji to that post. He might not know you are joking!
5. She _____ with me online, but in real life she ignores me.
6. Our son gets mysterious texts from his friends with emoji and text abbreviations.
We have no idea how to _____.

Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. The rules aren't that clear-cut.
 - a) fair
 - b) obvious
 - c) written
 - d) easy
2. Is the peace sign a universal symbol?
 - a) large
 - b) important
 - c) widespread
 - d) limited
3. There's a limit to how many characters you can use in a tweet.
 - a) maximum
 - b) mean
 - c) minimum
 - d) message
4. My dog looks mean, but he's harmless.
 - a) dangerous
 - b) cute
 - c) gentle
 - d) flirting
5. I'm not good at reading people's emotions.
 - a) minds
 - b) words
 - c) pictographs
 - d) feelings
6. I cracked the code. They are planning on drinking alcohol at the party.
 - a) figured it out
 - b) spelled it out
 - c) needed to know
 - d) checked the answers

Discussion Questions

1. Do some people in your social network go overboard with emoji?
2. Do emoji fulfill the purpose they were designed for?
3. Are today's emoji diverse enough?
4. When would you NOT use emoji?
5. Do you agree or disagree with the argument that the use of emoji is a big step backward for mankind?

Say It with Emoji

A. Survey

Survey some or all of your classmates. Which emoji activity would they like to try? Put a check (✓) under the activity they choose.

[illegible]

B. Your Chosen Activity

Get into a group with a few classmates that chose the same activity as you. Choose an event, song, book, or movie and try to retell it with emoji. Do a rough draft. Then create a display on a large piece of poster paper.

C. Presentation

Present your emoji summaries/translations to your class. Can your classmates guess what the story, event, or song is? What words or ideas were difficult to convey with emoji?

Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2017/03/15/podcast-emoji/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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1. emotions
2. weather, its
3. universal, clear-cut, flirting, winking
4. inside jokes, harmless,
5. crack the codes
6. critics, limits
6. Tears of Joy

ANSWERS: