



**Are emojis an
important part of
communication?**





Let's look at this week's story

10-year-old Teddy Cottle from Oxfordshire has launched a petition calling for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he says it gives the wrong impression of glasses-wearers. Teddy decided to write a letter to Apple requesting the design be changed, asking his classmates and French teacher, Lisa Baillie, to sign it. She suggested instead that it should become a petition and it was launched on petitiononline.co.uk.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...



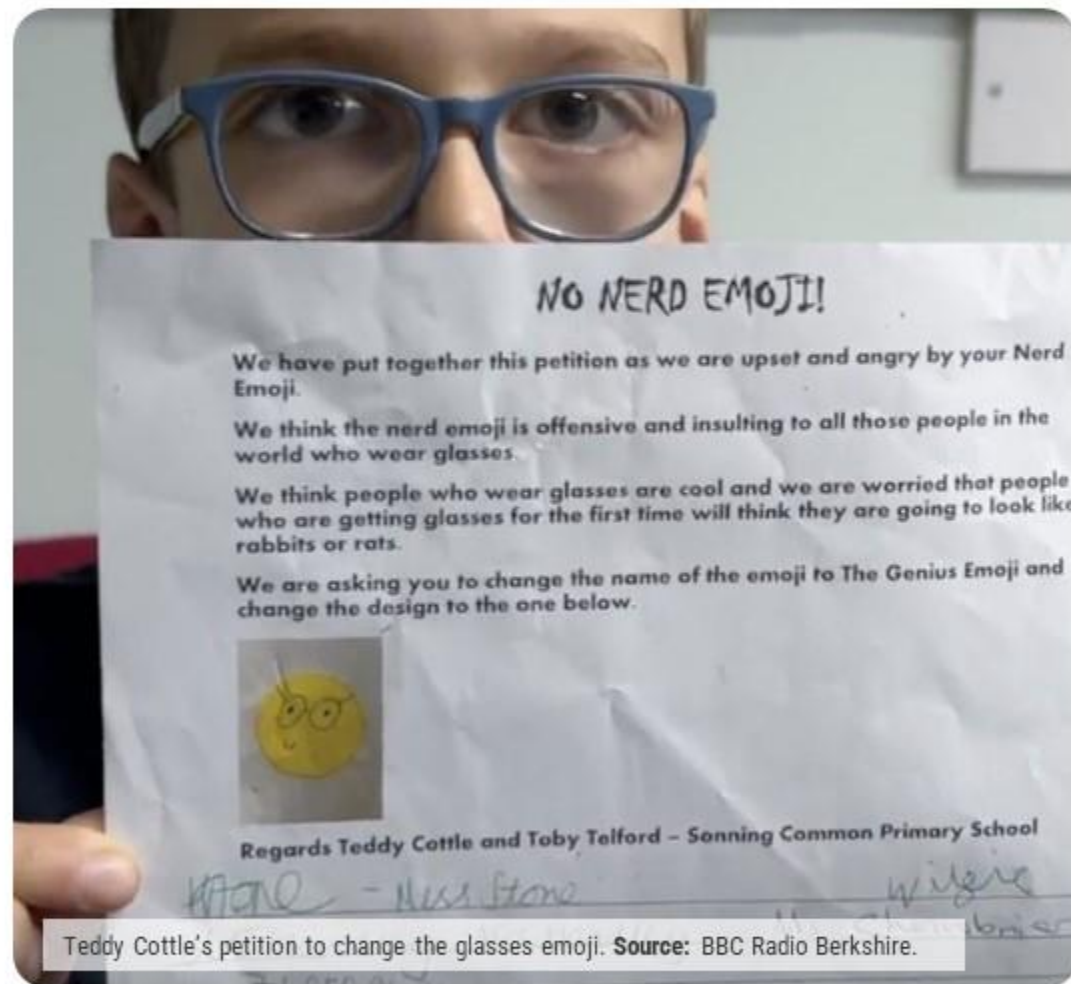


Read the information below, which explains more about Teddy Cottle's petition.

What does Teddy Cottle want to change?

Teddy Cottle first noticed the glasses emoji when texting his cousin, and felt it wasn't a fair representation of glasses wearers. He decided to write a letter to Apple and asked his friends to sign it. With the help of his teacher, he has now started a petition asking Apple to remove the 'nerd glasses' emoji from its keyboard, and instead replace it with a face with glasses and smile, and name it the 'genius' emoji.

They're making people think we're nerds and it's absolutely horrible. It's making me feel sad and upset, and if I find it offensive there'll be thousands of people around the world that find it offensive too.



Teddy Cottle's petition to change the glasses emoji. Source: BBC Radio Berkshire.

Do you agree that the emoji should be changed?



There are thousands of different emojis that people use for different reasons. Look at the examples below:



Smiley/emotion face emojis.



Picture News @HelpPicture · Nov 7

During this year's Talk Money Week, we ask the big question, 'How important is it to understand money?'

You can access the pack to share with children, here bit.ly/47d0A3w

A Picture News post on X, using a pointing finger emoji.



A WhatsApp message between friends, who are planning to meet for a BBQ.

What emojis have been used in the Picture News post and the WhatsApp message? Why have they been used?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about how new emojis are decided.

The Unicode Consortium is a non-profit organisation, mainly made up of technology companies like Google. One of the things the people in the Unicode Consortium do is manage emojis.

Anyone can send in an idea for an emoji. Each year, the Unicode Consortium reviews new ideas for emojis and decides which ones should be introduced.



Top tips for creating a new emoji

1

Emojis should be universal. People living all over the world should be able to understand the emoji. They should also be inclusive and diverse.

2

Real places or people cannot be used e.g., a famous landmark. Fictional characters or symbols for companies cannot be used either.

3

A new emoji idea needs to be different from any that already exist and needs to represent or express a new idea or emotion.

**Were you aware anyone could design an emoji?
Do you have any ideas for a new emoji?**



**Are emojis an
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Reflection



Emojis can be a good way to express online how we are feeling. As well as emotions, emojis may also reflect our appearance, and many people believe that this should provide a fair representation of our differences.





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We are all different. Learning about each other can help us understand and respect one another.

Emojis should represent our diverse world and be inclusive.

Protected Characteristics



We should all feel like we can be represented through emojis no matter who we are, where we live or what we believe.





UN Rights of a Child



No matter who we are, where we live, what language we speak, what our religion is, what we think, what we look like, if we are a boy or a girl, if we have a disability, if we are rich or poor, we should never be treated unfairly.



Useful vocabulary



Emoji

A small digital image or icon used to represent or express an idea or emotion.

Share your own experience of emojis.

Express

Show what you think or feel.

Emojis can be a good way to **express** online how we are feeling.

Impression

An idea or opinion of what something or someone is like.

...he says it gives the wrong **impression** of glasses-wearers.

Offensive

Causing someone to feel resentful, upset, or annoyed.

'If I find it **offensive** there'll be thousands of people around the world that find it offensive too.'

Petition

A document signed by a large number of people asking for some action from the **government or another authority**.

She suggested instead that it should become a **petition**.

Representation

The way that someone or something is shown or described.

Teddy Cottle first noticed the glasses emoji when texting his cousin, and felt it wasn't a fair **representation** of glasses wearers.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



Are emojis an important part of communication?

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- Look at this week's poster image and talk about what you can see. Share your own experience of emojis.
- Can you think of different times when emojis are used?
- Do you like to use emojis? Think of some advantages and disadvantages of using emojis in writing.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource, which explains more about Teddy Cottle's petition. Do you agree that the emoji should be changed?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explores Teddy's decision to act. Talk through some of the reasons why he did.
- Can you think of any other emojis that you believe could or should be changed? If so, how?
- In addition to emojis, can you come up with any other ways we can communicate alongside words?

Reflection

Emojis can be a good way to express online how we are feeling. As well as emotions, emojis may also reflect our appearance, and many people believe that this should provide a fair representation of our differences.

Picture News



KS1 focus

Why do people use emojis?



- Share anything you know about emojis. Think about what they are and whether you have seen any being used before.
- An emoji is a small digital image or icon. They are often used on devices such as mobile phones, tablets, computers, etc. Can you make a list of different types of emojis you have seen e.g., smiley faces, hand signs, animals, flags?
- There are thousands of different emojis that people use for many different reasons. Look at the examples in resource 1. What emojis have been used in the Picture News post on X and the WhatsApp message? Why have they been used?
- Emojis represent or express an idea or emotion. Discuss how a 'thumbs up' emoji can be a quick way to respond instead of writing. The smiley/emotion faces let someone know how you are feeling. How do you think Katie and Lisa feel about the BBQ?
- Focus on the smiley/emotion emojis on resource 1. Which emotion do you think each represents? Do they represent you when you are feeling that way?
- Think about some other places you have seen emojis e.g., key rings, cushions, in a film! Have you ever used emojis in your classroom to help you discuss how you feel?

Reflection

Emojis are often used when communicating with people digitally as they can help express an idea or emotion. Sometimes, we may still prefer to talk to someone in person or communicate in other ways.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How are new emojis decided?



- There are over 3000 emojis. Each emoji is designed to represent or express an idea or emotion in the digital world. Do you use emojis? Are there any you use often? Do you have a favourite emoji?
- Every year, new emojis are released for people to use in their digital communications. Do you know anything about how these new emojis are selected?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some information about how new emojis are decided. Were you aware anyone could design an emoji? Do you have any ideas for a new emoji?
- Focus on the 'Top tips for creating a new emoji'. In recent years, Unicode has worked hard to ensure emojis are inclusive and diverse. In 2015, emojis became available in a range of skin colours and in 2019, people with disabilities were represented. Do you feel you can be represented by an emoji?
- Unicode also mentions that emojis should be universal and understood by anyone living anywhere in the world. Do you think every emoji will represent or express the same idea or emotion for everyone? Why?

Reflection

Thousands of emojis are used by billions of people every day. The Unicode Consortium select the new emojis that are released each year, working hard to ensure that they are inclusive and diverse.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Design a new emoji! Begin by researching the emojis that already exist. You can do this in any digital form such as a Word document.

- Do you think all people and cultures are represented?
- Are there any ideas or emotions you would like to express that you cannot find an emoji for?
- Is there a food/animal/hobby that you believe is not represented?

Next, plan your emoji.

- Will it represent/express an idea or emotion?
- How can you ensure it is universal?

Finally, create your new design. You could do this by sketching or using a computer program. Perhaps you could send your design to the Unicode Consortium to consider for 2024!

Option 2

Emotions can be expressed or represented in many different ways e.g., through art, music, dance, poetry.

- Can you think of any other ways emotions can be expressed or represented?

Use this opportunity to create your own piece of work to express or represent an emotion. Think about:

- How will you share your emotion? Art, music, poetry?
- What emotion or emotions will you represent? Happiness, sadness, anger?
- What colours, movements, shapes, words will express your emotion?

Share your work with others and find out if it evokes the same emotion for them.



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Emojis are used to communicate with people living all over the world, even though they may not speak the same language.

- Can you think of any other ways you might communicate with someone who doesn't speak the same language as you?
- What does a handshake, smile or wave mean?
- How could you communicate thanking someone?
- How could you show someone you are finding something difficult?

Sometimes our facial expressions and how we use our bodies can communicate a message. Explore this further by communicating an idea, emotion or message using only your body.

Option 2

Share the sequence of smiley/emotion emojis below (or something similar).

- Which is the second emoji?
- Which emoji is fifth?
- Which emoji comes next?
- Which emoji will be tenth?
- Can you describe the pattern?

Create your own emoji sequences. You could work with a partner or as part of a group to describe the pattern and add more emojis to the sequence.



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://uk.pcmag.com/ios/149940/10-year-old-starts-petition-for-apple-to-change-insulting-nerd-emoji>

This week's useful video

Teddy Cottle's petition
www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/av/67576344

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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Saved from extinction in the wild



Pictured: Scimitar-horned oryx.

Source: Whipsnade Zoo @ZSLWhipsnadeZoo X page.

For the first time ever, a species – the scimitar-horned oryx (an antelope with long curved horns) – has moved from 'Extinct in the Wild' to 'Endangered'! This good news was announced in the latest International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species update. The rewilding project was led by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and the Chad Government. It was implemented on the ground by Sahara Conservation, along with international partners. Conservation work from zoos around the world, including Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, has resulted in a 'world herd' of the antelope species being

released into their natural habitat in Chad's Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve. The reserve is one of the largest in the world, it measures 77,950 square kilometres. The population of the herd is now reported to be increasing and no longer decreasing on the North African nature reserve, with at least 140 mature individuals ranging freely. The Zoological Society of London's senior conservation biologist, Tim Wacher, said, 'All Saharan antelope species are severely threatened, but this project is proof that with the right will and resources we can secure a future for them all.'

5000 days of photos

Martin Bond, a photographer from Cambridge, announced he has completed his daily photo challenge by taking his 5000th picture! Martin began taking daily photos in his local area to show a different side to the city than is usually viewed by tourists. He wanted to help locals fall in love with their hometown again through his images. He has snapped one photo a day and posted them on social media for his thousands of followers to enjoy as a celebration of the city for more than a decade. The street photography project was named 'A Cambridge Diary' and was intended to only last for one year. As Martin enjoyed the project so much, he continued it for 13 years! Mr Bond said of his work, 'It occurred to me that when people think about Cambridge there's a number of images or pictures that immediately spring to mind. I thought I wanted to shake that up a little bit by turning my back and camera away from those classic, beautiful views and perhaps instead focus more on the reality of the city.' He continued, 'I think I've been very fortunate, Cambridge is inherently beautiful, its people are inherently bonkers.'



Pictured: A full moon eased itself between the turrets of an illuminated King's College Chapel – the 5000th photograph of A Cambridge Diary. **Source:** A Cambridge Diary @acambridgediary X page.

Do you enjoy taking photographs? Would you like to use them to show the people and places you love in your local area?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Joining together in peace



Pictured left: Pupils from Lomeshaye Junior School holding their peace chain. **Source:** Lomeshaye Junior School X page.
Pictured right: Pupils from Whitefield Infant School carrying their peace chain. **Source:** Mrs M @Whitefieldhead X page.

Pupils from two schools have linked their peace chains together. Lomeshaye Junior School and Whitefield Infant School in Nelson, Lancashire, have shared a wonderful moment of togetherness when they laid out their chains so that the messages of peace, they had all created stretched from one school all the way to the other. The schools then met and joined their paper chains on Whitefield Bridge, where learners from both schools sang 'A Gift Called Love' as a rainbow appeared in the sky above them! Mrs Mason, headteacher of Whitefield Infant school posted on X, 'Such a lovely day today, sharing a 'chain of peace' across our

schools.... It's the little things that make a big difference in our world. A very special occasion for our children, seeing their impact on our world.' Afterwards, Lomeshaye Junior School proudly displayed their 260m chain of peace in their hall, where everyone in school could celebrate their collective efforts and continue to share their messages of peace to the world. We want to say a big thank you to all the schools that have created and shared their peace chains and the messages on them with us. We have loved seeing all your messages of peace. **Did your school create a peace chain? How long do you think the longest peace chain submitted to us last year was?**

Last week's topic: What is rubbish?



We should pick up rubbish to help not worsen the situation.
Mason

We should pick up rubbish, our own and others so that we can all have a clean place to live.
Alexi

I think we should start a race to pick up 1 million [pieces of] trash and [the] city [that] does the most gets a prize.

Charlie

Let us know what you think about this week's news.

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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TAKEHOME



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In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you know about emojis? Do you ever use them?
- > Talk to someone else at home. Do they use emojis?
- > If you could design a new emoji, what would it look like?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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