

ProTalk

Discussion Files

afaq

Language Center

C1. Emojis in language

Afaq Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the evolving use of emojis in language.
- Can share my own opinion on the development of modern communication in detail.



How do you quickly tell your husband you love him, your friend that you‘re mad, or your mum that you‘re upset? You use an **emoji**, of course.

Text messages

How often do you write text messages? Do you prefer to text or speak directly on the phone? Do you have a different preference depending on who you are speaking to?



Text messages

Can you decode these text messages?
Do you ever use this style of writing when sending messages?

How r u?

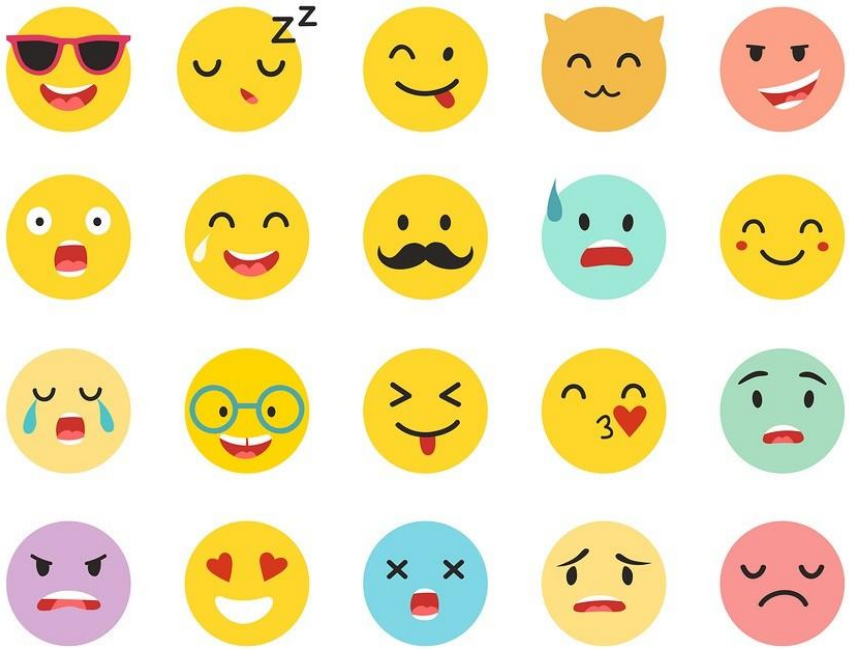
C u 2moro.

I'm w8ing 4 u.

B back l8r.

Using emojis

Do you use emojis? Why (not)?



Make your own sentences with the new words.

humble	She's very **humble** despite her huge success.
miscommunication	There was an unfortunate **miscommunication** – he thought I'd be there at 8, but I actually left my house at 8.
gratitude	I wanted to show my **gratitude** by cooking you a meal.
outlet	I needed an **outlet** for my anger so I started boxing.
shorthand	She's always in a rush so she takes notes in **shorthand**.
hieroglyphics	Ancient Egyptians wrote using **hieroglyphics**.

Read the text and summarize it.

Emojis in language

It is said that a picture can convey a thousand words, so what of the **humble** emoji? Can it convey a thousand emotions? Most people are familiar with and have used emojis, little faces which express different emotions, when sending text messages or e-mails. There is even a World Emoji Day when, presumably, we are supposed to communicate our every emotion in the form of a yellow face.



Read the text and summarize it.

Emojis in language

Emojis were first introduced to mobile phones in Japan in 1999, but were not made available to the international market until 2011. After a slow start, they **exploded in popularity** some years later and can now be found in almost every message we write to friends, used as a **shorthand** for our reactions and feelings. *Emoji* in fact is a Japanese word which simply means *picture character*. Indeed, there are far more than smiley faces to be found on our screens, with characters ranging from a caterpillar to a hammer.



Read the text and summarize it.

Emojis in language

While emojis may lack the grammatical and emotional complexity of true language, they express our thoughts and feelings **succinctly**. As we communicate more and more via **messaging platforms** and our need for speed increases, our usage of emojis seems to be increasing; an emoji can tell someone *I'm mad at you* or *don't worry about it* without the need for us to type it out. We can now **relay** emotional concepts in a simple picture rather than making the effort to give long explanations.



Read the text and summarize it.

Emojis in language

Some argue that the emoji **injects** emotion into our written language. We are often able to convey something which is obvious in face-to-face interactions via tone of voice, body language and gesturing, but which is generally harder to convey through text. Moreover, with the **abundance** of emojis nowadays, all sorts of skin tones, hair types and body shapes are represented; in a way, emojis can represent a sense of self.

Vocabulary review: discuss the meaning and make a sentence with each word

to explode in popularity

to relay

to inject

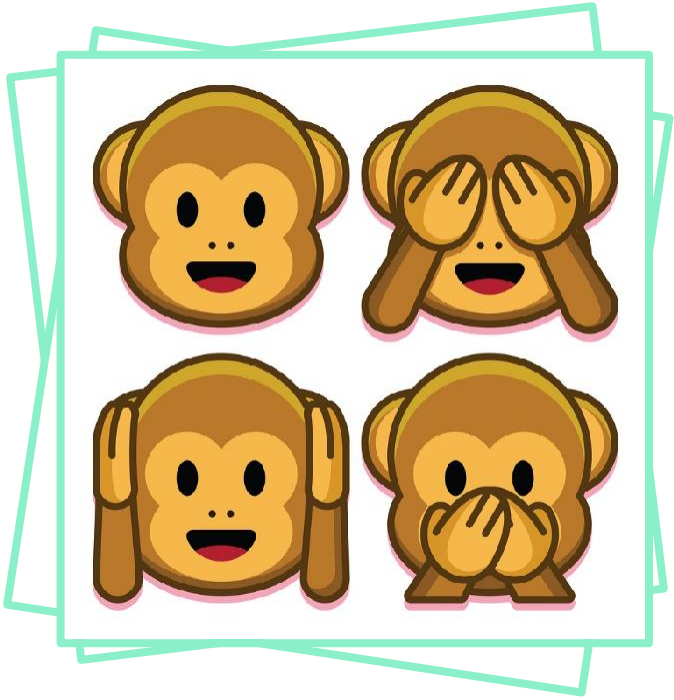
succinct

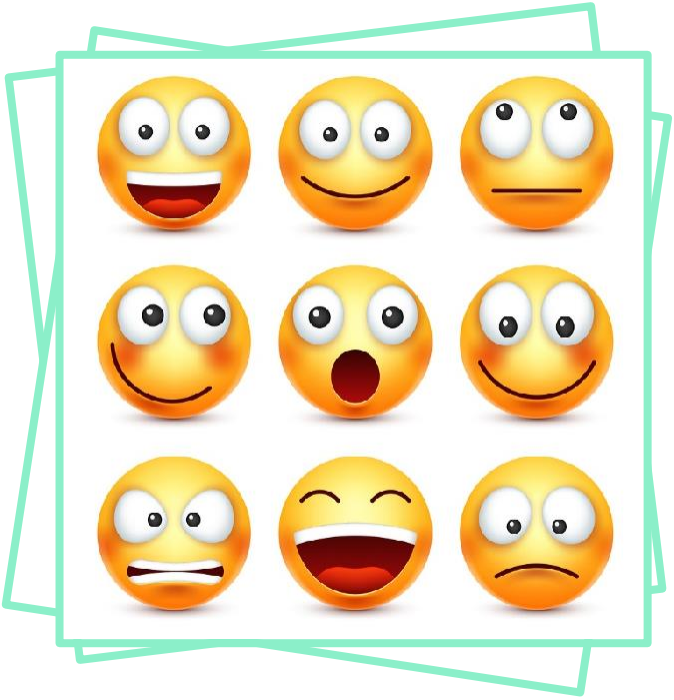
to convey

regression

The growth of emojis

Why do you think the popularity of emojis has grown exponentially in recent years?





What do you think?

How important do you think these various things are in communication?

Can emojis replace these things in written communication?



tone of voice

facial expression

body language

gesture

Decode these emojis

What do these emojis mean? Do you think they could be interpreted differently by different people?



Miscommunication



Have you ever experienced an instance of **miscommunication** when using emojis?

Do you think the same happens when we write full messages?

There are no words

Think of some **ambiguous** emojis whose emotions you can't easily describe, or which you wouldn't see in real life outside of a screen.

Do your best to describe some of them to your teacher and see if they can guess which ones you mean!



My day in emojis

Think of the most common feelings you experience during an average day. Is there an emoji you could use to describe each? Or are some emotions impossible to express using just one image?

If you could describe an average day using emojis, do you think it would be an accurate description of your feelings that day?






Communication



Do you think using emojis is damaging our communication with others?

Is it appropriate?

Are there any circumstances under which you would not use an emoji? When might it be inappropriate?





The future of emojis

Do you think emojis will ever make their way into formal written communication?



The future of emojis

Think back to page 5. It could be argued that the use of this style of messaging is declining among young people.

Do you think this sort of decline could eventually happen with emojis too?

Positives and negatives

Write two lists of the positives and negatives of emojis. Which one outweighs the other?

positives	negatives

Presentation

Using the lists on the previous page, think about the positive and negatives of using emojis.

Prepare a two-minute presentation about it. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

emotion	gesture
intonation	miscommunication
regression	shorthand