

Priorities for Future RGI Emoji Sequences

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To: Unicode Technical Committee

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Introduction

The Emoji Subcommittee report for Q1 2019 ([L2/19-018](#)) noted that the Unicode Emoji Subcommittee (ESC) has an ongoing goal to increase the diversity of the RGI emoji sequences in a consistent and steady manner.

While many emoji additions require only individual code points, other key areas potentially involve a large number of sequences which would not be suitable to fit within a single emoji release.

This document aims to specify the current priorities of the ESC and in doing so, highlight 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 below.

Areas of interest

This aims to address areas which require the largest number of potential new (RGI) emoji sequences.

- A. Gender neutral / gender inclusive emoji (eg Technologist, Person With Probing Cane)
- B. Mixed skin tone support for multi-person groupings (eg Handshake, Families, Couples)
- C. Emoji direction sequences (eg orientation / left-right)
- D. Color variation sequences (eg colored ribbon, white wine)

Both A and B address gaps within the existing emoji set and as such are considered a higher priority for implementation than C or D which seek to expand the scope of emoji functionality.

Emoji 13.0 (2020 planned for Q1 2020)

Gender Neutral additions for emoji with existing Woman + Man versions

The current RGI emoji list contains an inconsistent mix of gender options. Some emoji offer only a single gender, while others offer two or three gender options.

As of Emoji 11.0, there are 23 “Person + Object” style Emoji ZWJ Sequences which have a Woman and Man option listed as RGI, but no equivalent gender neutral option.

1. Artist	13. Mechanic
2. Astronaut	14. Office Worker
3. Person: Bald	15. Pilot
4. Curly Hair	16. Person: Red Hair
5. Dancer*	17. Scientist
6. Factory Worker	18. Singer
7. Farmer	19. Student
8. Firefighter	20. Teacher
9. Health Worker	21. Technologist
10. Person In Manual Wheelchair	22. Person: White Hair
11. Person In Motorized Wheelchair	23. Person With Probing Cane
12. Judge	

If each of these were to be given a third “gender neutral” sequence using *U+1F9D1 ADULT* in place of *U+1F469 WOMAN* or *U+1F468 MAN*, a total of 174 new RGI sequences would be required. This is being considered by the ESC for Emoji 13.0.

**DANCER would require either a new code point “WOMAN DANCING” to reconcile the existing code points U+1F57A MAN DANCING and U+1F483 DANCER (currently deemed to be a woman for display purposes), or an alternative approach.*

Total Gender Neutral additions: ~23 emoji + 115 skin tones = ~138 new RGI sequences



Above: Health Worker and Judge shown with gender inclusive appearance (highlighted).
Images: Google.

Mixed Skin Tones for U+1F91D HANDSHAKE

Following the addition of 71 new 'People Holding Hands' variations approved for Emoji 12.0, the following *multi-person grouping* is being considered for mixed skin tone support in Emoji 13.0:

- 🤝 Handshake (15)

a. Current considerations for appropriate Handshake ZWJ Sequences include:

- [🤝 U+1F91D] + [Skin Tone] + [ZWJ] + [🤝 U+1F91D] + [Skin Tone] (fallback = 🤝🤝)
- [👐 U+270B] + [Skin Tone] + [ZWJ] + [👐 U+270B] + [Skin Tone] (fallback = 👐👐)

b. Alternatively, two new characters could be encoded for this purpose. For example:

- Reverse left facing hand
- Open right facing hand

Total additions:

If option (a)

- **15 new RGI sequences**

or if (b):

- **15 new RGI sequences (as above)s**
- **+ 2 additional code points**
- **+ 5 RGI sequences for each individual hand skin tone support**
- **= Total of 27 new RGI emoji**



Above: Handshake shown with mixed skin tone support.
Mockup based on Google emoji designs.



Above: Shared skin tone support is not RGI but is supported by Samsung, Facebook, WhatsApp, Google, Twitter (shown L-R above).

Emoji 14.0 (planned for Q1 2021)

Skin Tones for Couples

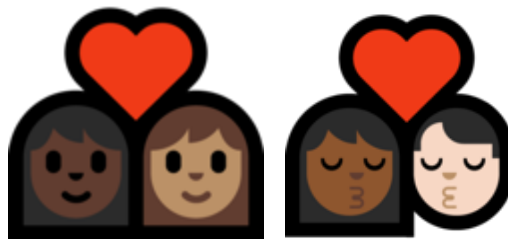
The following multi person groupings are being considered for mixed skin tone support in Emoji 13.0:

- 🧑❤️🧑 Couple With Heart (15)
- 🧑❤️🧑 Couple With Heart: Woman, Woman (15)
- 🧑❤️🧑 Couple With Heart: Woman, Man (25)
- 🧑❤️🧑 Couple With Heart: Man, Man (15)

- 🧑💋🧑 Kiss (15)
- 🧑💋🧑 Kiss: Woman, Woman (15)
- 🧑💋🧑 Kiss: Woman, Man (25)
- 🧑💋🧑 Kiss: Man, Man (15)

These are considered a lower priority to U+1F91D HANDSHAKE as the 'people holding hands' sequences cover similar ground.

Total additions: 140 new RGI sequences



Above: Existing mixed skin tone support for *Couple With Heart* variations and *Kiss* variations is present in Microsoft Windows 10.

Remaining Gender Options

If a consistent set of three gender sequences is provided for the majority of people in Emoji 13.0, remaining gaps will include a number of emoji which have only a woman, man, or gender neutral option.

Other remaining possibilities include emoji with a woman and man option that have been encoded with separate code points (eg Mother/Father Christmas, Princess/Prince).

- One possible outcome is that every human emoji gains three gender options, for consistency and inclusivity.
- Another possibility is that some emoji are determined to be best represented by only one (or two) gender options, on a case-by-case basis.

If Emoji 13.0 adds additional gender neutral RGI sequences for Person+Object style ZWJ Sequences, Emoji 14.0 would be an appropriate time to audit remaining outliers and determine which (if any) should gain additional gender sequences.

Total additions: ~10-20 + 50-100 skin tones = 60-120 new RGI sequences

Emoji 15.0+ (planned for Q1 2022+)

Skin Tones for Families

As of April 2019, there is insufficient support from vendors to recommend full (mixed) skin tone support for the 26 existing family options. To achieve this [4,225 new emoji sequences](#) would be required.

- A notable goal would be to aim for inclusion of these sequences on major platforms in the coming years.
 - The Emoji 15.0 timeframe listed here is considered aspirational at this stage.
- An alternative option is that vendors use a shared skin tone option for these families as a suitable option in the interim; and this subset could be added to the RGI emoji list.
 - This does not currently have consensus among vendors and is not actively being pursued.

Changing factors about emoji use, improvements to emoji keyboards, emoji pickers or font technology may determine whether these become possible or practical for a majority of major vendors to implement sooner or later than 2022.

1. 🧑🧑 Family*	14. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Woman, Girl
2. 🧑🧑 Family: Man, Boy	15. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Woman, Girl, Boy
3. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Boy, Boy	16. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Woman, Girl, Girl
4. 🧑🧑 Family: Man, Girl	17. 🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Boy
5. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Girl, Boy	18. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Boy, Boy
6. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Girl, Girl	19. 🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Girl
7. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Man, Boy	20. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Girl, Boy
8. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Man, Boy, Boy	21. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Girl, Girl
9. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Man, Girl	22. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Woman, Boy
10. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Man, Girl, Boy	23. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Woman, Boy, Boy
11. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Man, Girl, Girl	24. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Woman, Girl
12. 🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Woman, Boy	25. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Woman, Girl, Boy
13. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Man, Woman, Boy, Boy	26. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 Family: Woman, Woman, Girl, Girl

Mixed skin tone sequences for every family emoji is already valid, but not listed as RGI due to lack of cross platform support. *U+1F46A FAMILY would require a new sequence is representing three gender neutral people.

Total additions: 4,225 new RGI sequences



Above: Mixed skin tone support as supported by Microsoft in Windows 10.

Skin Tones for remaining multi-person groupings

These are not considered a high priority. For consistency, all may be considered for mixed skin tone support in a future release.

- 🐰 U+1F46F WOMAN WITH BUNNY EARS [CLDR: *People With Bunny Ears*] (15)
 - People With Bunny Ears: Woman, Woman (15)
 - People With Bunny Ears: Woman, Man (25 / a low priority addition)
 - People With Bunny Ears: Man, Man (15)
- 🤼 U+1F93C WRESTLERS [CLDR: *People Wrestling*] (15)
 - People Wrestling: Woman, Woman (15)
 - People Wrestling: Woman, Man (25 / a low priority addition)
 - People Wrestling: Man, Man (15)

Total additions: ~100-140 new RGI sequences

Note: these do not have obvious emoji singletons to pair in ZWJ Sequences. As such, these may be paired by using two of the existing emoji characters (as suggested in [L2/18-223](#)), or new solo 'bunny ears' or 'wrestler' code points could be encoded. For People With Bunny Ears, the singular UCD name 'Woman With Bunny Ears' could alternatively be used to recommend for solo display of this emoji, and only show two people when used as part of a paired ZWJ sequence.

Background

This document itself is not proposing specific RGI sequences, and merely aims to communicate the current intentions of the ESC to the Unicode Technical Committee.

In previous years, large emoji additions have taken place within a single emoji release. These have included:

- **Emoji modifiers for skin tone:** Emoji 1.0 (released 2015)
- **Gender sequences:** Emoji 4.0 (released 2016)
- **Skin tones for people holding hands:** Emoji 12.0 (released 2019)

Under the priorities listed here, the following major areas would be recommended as follows:

- **Gender-inclusive sequences:** Emoji 13.0 (expected release: 2020)
- **Skin Tones for Couples:** Emoji 14.0 (expected release: 2021)
- **Skin Tones for Families:** Emoji 15.0 (expected release: 2022)

Emoji direction sequences or color sequences may be handled on a case-by-case basis, and do not form part of this 'large group' priority order.

Note

Some of the areas within this document may involve public consultation (PRI) at the appropriate time.

Emoji groupings and priorities included in this document are not an exhaustive list of possibilities. Recommendations and timelines may change over time.