

Face with Tears of Joy Emoji

Subjects: Cultural Studies

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thumb|Appearance in the EmojiOne emoji set|167x167px Face with Tears of Joy (😄) is an emoji featuring a jovial face laughing, while also crying out tears. It can also be used for joking and teasing. It is the most commonly used emoji on social media websites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram. The emoji is also variously known as the lol emoji, joy emoji, laughing emoji or the laughing crying emoji.

Keywords: social media ; lol ; thumbappearance

1. Development and Usage History

The creation and early development of emojis dates back to the late 1990's in Japan. Although an earlier set of emoji had appeared on the J-Phone in 1997, with limited adoption due to high prices,^[1] the first popular emoji set is attributed to Japanese telecommunications planner and NTT DoCoMo employee Shigetaka Kurita in 1999, who sketched illustrations after coming up with the idea of adding simple images to NTT DoCoMo's texting feature.^{[2][3]} These were deployed on DoCoMo's i-Mode service.^[1] When Apple released the first iPhone in 2007, there was an emoji keyboard intended for Japanese users only.^[3] However, after iPhone users in the United States discovered that downloading Japanese apps allowed access to the keyboard, pressure grew to expand availability of the emoji keyboard beyond Japan, and in 2011, Apple made it a standard iOS feature worldwide.^[3] Global popularity of emojis then surged in the early to mid-2010s.^[4]

What was officially called the "Face with Tears of Joy" emoji by the Unicode Consortium^[5] was introduced with the October 2010 release of Unicode 6.0.^[6] It was sourced from the SoftBank Mobile and au by KDDI emoji sets.^[7] The Face with Tears of Joy emoji is in the Emoticons Unicode block under: U+1F602 😄 FACE WITH TEARS OF JOY (HTML: 😂)^[8] The cat variant under U+1F639 🐱 CAT FACE WITH TEARS OF JOY (HTML: 😹) is also available.^[9]

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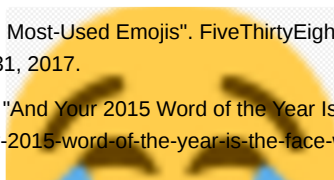
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20. On World Emoji Day 2017, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg shared the ten most used emojis on the Facebook platform, the Face with Tears of Joy emoji ranked #1 globally, as well as in United Kingdom. — The emoji was also one of the top three most used globally on Facebook's Messenger app.^[17] Also during the observance, SwiftKey announced that the emoji was the most used in the United Kingdom during 2016.^[18] In 2017, *Time* (magazine) reported that "Winners of World Emoji Awards to be Announced on World Emoji Day" (in en).^[19] *Broadway World*. July 17, 2017. <https://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwtv/article/Winners-of-World-Emoji-Awards-to-be-Announced-on-World-Emoji-Day-2017-07-17>. Retrieved August 18, 2017.
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13. Reception

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- In November 2013, Brenden Gallagher of *Complex* ranked the "Laughing Crying Face" emoji at #2 in his "Emoji Power Rankings" on *A Big New Year's*.^[22] In 2016, *Complex* stated that the information indicates that the Laughing Crying Face has also reached the top of the list. <https://www.4mat.com/news/complex-2016-words-of-the-year>. Retrieved July 29, 2017.
2. In 2015, *Slate* was suffering. As *Waldman* (July 29, 2015) noted that "😄 [is] the right linguistic incarnation of yet another complicated year, not to mention a good commentary on the very act of choosing a word of the year. What does it mean? Is it good or bad? It depends! With [the emoji's] intense and inscrutable emotional lability, [it] is less of a word and more of an invitation to invent some sort of meaning".^[23]

Regarding the reasoning behind the emoji's popularity, Fred Benenson, author of *Emoji Dick*, commented that "it is versatile. It can be used to convey joy, obviously, but also 'I'm laughing so hard I'm crying.' So you've got two basic, commonly occurring human emotions covered."^[6] Benenson also attributed the emoji's popularity to it being one of the better designed emojis from Apple.^[6] Abi Wilkinson, a freelance journalist writing for *The Guardian*, opined that the Face with Tears of Joy emoji is "the worst emoji of all", describing it as an "obnoxious, chortling little yellow dickhead [with] bulbous, cartoonish tears streaming down its face".^[24]