What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

26th October - 1st November 2026

Picture News

How can emojis help us to communicate?

Getty

Let's look at this week's story

Nine new emoji characters, including a pickle, a lighthouse and a monarch butterfly, have been approved by the Unicode Consortium. The new designs are expected to appear on phones and other devices throughout 2027, giving people more ways to communicate using pictures. The update includes 19 additions in total, once different skin-tone versions of the new hand gestures are counted.

Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Picture News here.

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How does it make me feel?

sad
despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry
aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy
beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused
addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited
animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried
agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed
engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid
alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty
ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous
bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful
appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked
astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted
affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired
activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed
ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested
absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

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

The Unicode Consortium headquarters is in California.

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Read the information found below all about the new emojis. Share your thoughts on the changes.

Emoji Update

What is changing?

The Unicode Consortium, which is in charge of emojis, has approved nine new emoji characters.

The nine new emojis

Source: Unicode Consortium

What are the new emojis?

- A cracking face
- A thumb pointing left
- A thumb pointing right
- A monarch butterfly
- A pickle
- A lighthouse
- A meteor
- An eraser
- A net with a handle

Some of the changes...

There is already a butterfly emoji, but the new one represents a particular species: the monarch butterfly.
The pickle and meteor also have their own identities, separate from the existing cucumber and comet emojis.

How are they decided and when will they be available?

The Unicode Consortium agrees which emoji characters are added to the standard. Companies then create their own versions of the designs, so the same emoji can look different on different devices.

They will be available to use on devices in 2027.

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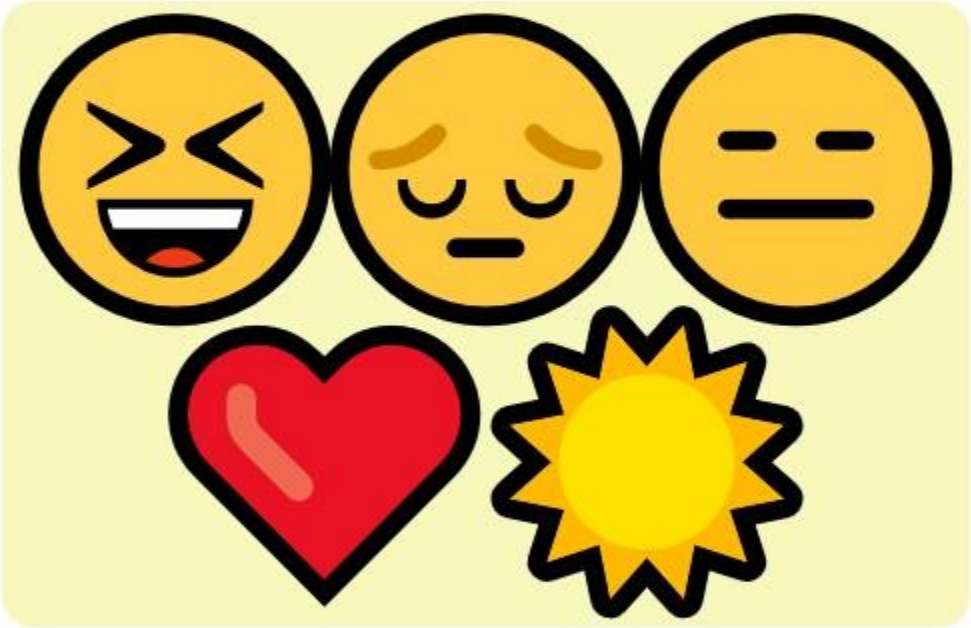
Resource one

Look at the resource below, which explores emojis and their potential uses and meanings.

What might each of these pictures mean?

You might have different ideas!



Can the same emoji mean different things? Share some examples.

Read through the scenarios below.

Which emojis might help with these messages?
Could more than one work?
Use the emojis on the poster to help you.

"Happy birthday! I hope you have a lovely day."

Sam is helping a grown-up send a birthday message to his cousin.

"Thank you for playing with me."

Asha is sending a message with her dad after visiting her grandad.

"I miss playing with you."

Ben is helping a grown-up send a message to a friend who has moved away.

"It is sunny here today!"

Mia is helping her mum send a message from their holiday.

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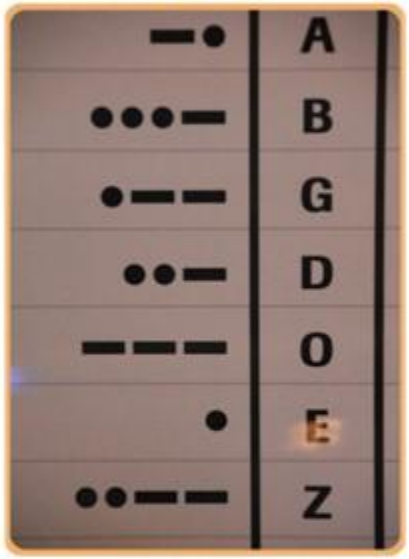
Resource two

Look at the resource below, which shares some different ways of communicating.



Morse code

Messages through signals

Morse code uses patterns of short and long signals to represent letters and numbers. These are written as dots and dashes, but messages can also be sent through sounds or flashes of light. Someone receiving a message needs to know the code or use a guide to work it out.

British Sign Language

A visual language

British Sign Language, or BSL, uses hand shapes, movements, facial expressions and body positions to communicate. It is a language with its own grammar. People can use BSL to have conversations, ask questions, explain ideas and tell stories.

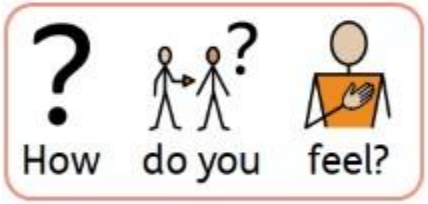
Braille

Reading through touch

Braille is a writing system that uses patterns of raised dots. Different patterns represent letters, numbers and other signs. Some blind and partially sighted people read Braille by touch, using their fingers to feel the dots. It can appear in books, on signs and on packaging.

Widgit Symbols

Pictures that support understanding



Widgit Symbols are simple pictures that represent words and ideas. They can help people understand information and communicate what they want to say. You might see them alongside words in a school timetable, on signs or on a communication board.

Which examples use sight, touch or hearing?

Could people use more than one way to communicate?

How could we find out what works best for someone?

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How can emojis help us to communicate?

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Reflection

Pictures and symbols are one way of communicating our thoughts, feelings and ideas. We can communicate in many different ways, including through words, gestures, facial expressions and emojis.

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Media Literacy

Analyse

Evaluate

Research

Act

I can talk about how a story makes me feel.

Explanation: Let's think about how news stories make us feel, and why different people might react in different ways.

Questions to Discuss

- How might the words and pictures in a news story affect how we feel?
- Could two people read the same news story but feel differently about it? Why?
- Why is it important to think about how news stories make you and other people feel?

Activity

- Read the news story about the new emojis.
- Imagine a friend has shared this news story with you. Think about how you might feel.
- Choose an emoji to show your reaction, then write a sentence explaining how the story makes you feel and why.
- Share your response. Did other people feel differently? Why might this be?

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British Values

I Really Do Matter!

Individual Liberty

Rule of Law

Democracy

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?

Having a variety of emojis gives us the Individual Liberty to express our thoughts, feelings, and personalities in any way we choose.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance is shown by including a wider range of emoji images that reflect different people and experiences, helping everyone feel included, valued and represented.

Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

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Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?

Emojis showing different skin tones can help people feel represented and included. Everyone should be treated fairly, regardless of their race.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?

- Sex
- Who People Love
- Age
- Disability
- Being Yourself
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- **Race**
- Religion or Belief

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UN Rights of the Child

Every child has the right to share their thoughts and ideas and communicate in different ways. We can use emojis, pictures and symbols.

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Useful Vocabulary

Approved

Officially agreed that something can be used or go ahead.

Nine new emoji characters, including a pickle, a lighthouse and a monarch butterfly, have been **approved** by the Unicode Consortium.

Gestures

Movements of our hands, faces or bodies that express something.

We can communicate in many different ways, including through words, **gestures**, facial expressions and emojis.

Identities

The features that make people or things recognisable and different from others.

The pickle and meteor also have their own **identities**, separate from the existing cucumber and comet emojis.

Standard

An agreed set of rules that different people or organisations follow.

The Unicode Consortium agrees which emoji characters are added to the **standard**.

Symbols

Pictures or signs that represent something or carry meaning.

Alongside pictures and **symbols**, what are some other ways we can communicate with others?

Versions

Different forms of the same thing.

Companies then create their own **versions** of the designs.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

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Picture News

How can emojis help us to communicate?

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Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster and share what you know about emojis. How often do you use them? What do you think is the main purpose of them and why do you think they have become popular in messaging?
- Do you believe emojis are a good way to communicate? In your view, how do they compare with using words? Which do you think is more powerful? Why?
- Can you think of any times when you perhaps shouldn't use emojis? What might you use instead?
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource** all about the new emojis. What do you think about the new designs?
- Apart from pictures and symbols, what are some different ways we can communicate with others? E.g., speaking, writing, sign language, gestures, facial expressions and body language.
- Watch the useful video about how emojis have developed over time. If you could pick one new emoji, what would it be? What would it be used for?

Reflection

Pictures and symbols are one way of communicating our thoughts, feelings and ideas. We can communicate in many different ways, including through words, gestures, facial expressions and emojis.

Picture News

KS1 focus

When might we use emojis?

Listen Think Share

- Show the children some familiar emojis. Have you seen pictures like these before? Where have you noticed them? Do you know what they are called? Explain that emojis are small pictures people can add to messages to help share feelings and ideas.
- Look closely at the emojis. What do you think each one might mean? Have you and your partner had the same ideas?
- Think about a time when you wanted to thank someone, celebrate something or tell someone how you felt. What did you want them to know? How did you share your message?
- Look at the scenarios on **Resource 1**. What does each child want to tell someone? Which emoji might they choose to go with their message? Explain your choices. Could more than one emoji work for the same message?
- Look at the heart emoji. When might someone use it? Could you add it to a birthday message or a thank you message? What might it tell the person receiving it?
- Imagine inviting someone to a birthday party. An emoji might show that you are excited, but would it tell them where to go or when to arrive? What else would they need to know?
- Think of a message you might help a grown-up send. Which emoji would you choose? Why? Would you add any words to help the person understand?

Reflection

Emojis can help us share feelings, celebrate and say thank you. Adding words can help others understand what we mean.

Picture News

KS2 focus

What are some other ways we can communicate with others?

Listen Think Share

- Think about your day so far. How have you shared information, ideas or feelings with someone? Perhaps you spoke, wrote something, pointed, signed or used pictures.
- Have you ever understood a message without hearing someone speak? What helped you understand it? Think about signs around school, a wave from a friend, or pictures showing what will happen next.
- Emojis are one way of communicating through pictures. What other ways of communicating can you name? Collect your ideas.
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shares some different ways of communicating. Which have you seen or heard of before? Read through the information together and discuss how each example works.
- Choose one example from **Resource 2**. How does it help someone share or understand information? Where or when might someone use it? Share what you have discovered.
- Compare the examples. How do people receive the messages: through sight, touch or hearing? Could you understand each one straight away, or would you need to learn something first? What might help you?
- Do you think there is one way of communicating that works for everyone, in every situation? Share your ideas, using examples from your own experiences and the resource.

Reflection

We communicate in many ways. Considering other people's needs and checking that we understand one another can help everyone share their ideas and feelings.

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KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Work with a partner and use a Morse code alphabet (you can find one online). Choose a short word and write it using dots and dashes, leaving a clear gap between letters.

Swap messages and use the alphabet to decode your partner's word. Check your answer together. What helped you understand the message? What made it tricky?

Option 2

A visitor needs to find your classroom. Create directions using at least two ways of communicating, such as written instructions, a spoken explanation, a map or picture signs. Ask a partner to try following them. What was clear? What needed explaining?

Challenge: Make one improvement.

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Choose a character from a story you know. Imagine they could send an emoji at an important moment. For example, what might Baby Bear send when he discovers that someone has broken his chair in Goldilocks and the Three Bears? Would you choose a sad face, an angry face or something else?

Draw your character's emoji and explain what they want someone to understand. Would they choose a different emoji later in the story?

Option 2

Make a card to welcome someone, celebrate something or say thank you.

Choose or draw emojis to help share your message. You can add words too. Show your card to a partner.

What do they think your message means?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

https://blog.emojipedia.org/whats-new-in-unicode-18-0/

This week's useful video

https://youtu.be/eukASsXbMQM?si=oBNDjamfpA8IbI6G

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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TAKEHOME

26th October – 1st November

How can emojis help us to communicate?

In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- Can you and someone at home tell a short story using only pictures?
- Do you both think the same emojis mean the same thing?
- If your family could create a new emoji, what would it show?
- Talk about some of the other ways we might communicate without words.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 1 NEWSPAPER
26th October – 1st November

A Fairytale Cake Shop

A colourful cake shop in Ukraine has won an international award for its amazing design! Namelaka is a pastry company in Kyiv, where people can buy modern desserts inspired by French baking. Its newest cafe was designed by a Ukrainian design team called NEMOV. The space has lots of pink details, including five different types of pink marble. Inside, there is also a pink piano, a library filled with Ukrainian fairytales, and a special area with a fireplace. The designers wanted the shop to feel like stepping into a fairytale! The shop won an award at the Restaurant & Bar Design Awards 2026, in the Europe – Café category. It was also shortlisted for another award in the Europe – Colour category.

Pictured: Namelaka is the winner of the Europe – Café category. **Source:** NEMOV studio on Facebook.

If you could design a cake shop, what would it look like?

Back from the ISS

An astronaut has returned to Earth with her colleagues, after spending nearly eight months in space! Sophie Adenot travelled to the International Space Station (ISS) in February 2026 and spent 237 days there, before returning to Earth this month. During her mission, Sophie carried out science experiments and helped test new technology. She also completed three spacewalks, spending almost 20 hours working outside the ISS! Sophie has made history with her mission. She set a new European record for the longest single spaceflight, beating the previous record by more than 35 days. She is also the first French woman to complete a spacewalk. While in space, Sophie shared videos and pictures of her adventure, including amazing views of Earth. She also helped inspire thousands of children to learn more about science and space.

Pictured: Sophie Adenot is back on Earth!
Source: ESA – European Space Agency on Facebook.

What would you like to do if you visited the ISS?

Do we need AI wherever we go?

I don't think we need AI wherever we go because it's not always useful.

Nixon

Let us know what you think about this week's news picture-news.co.uk/discuss help@picture-news.co.uk /picturenewsprimary/

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2 NEWSPAPER
26th October – 1st November

Giant Tortoise Population

A survey of the largest population of wild giant tortoises has revealed their numbers have increased to around 180,000! The Aldabra giant tortoise was once an endangered species but is now thriving on Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles. Giant tortoises are only found living free-roaming in two places on the planet, with a much smaller number living on the Galapagos Islands.

Pictured: A giant tortoise. **Source:** Canva.

Pictured: Giant tortoises. **Source:** Canva.

The Aldabra giant tortoise (Aldabrachelys gigantea) population was surveyed by the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) and the University of Exeter. 'The monitoring data in this study were collected by SIF staff living and working on the atoll, year after year. More than 180,000 giant tortoises roaming freely on our atoll is proof of what long-term commitment to conservation can achieve. This is wonderful news for Seychelles, for the world, and for everyone who has worked to protect Aldabra,' said Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley, from SIF.

Do you know any facts about the giant tortoise? Have you ever seen one?

Amazing Archers

Two 17-year-old British archers, Archie Christopher and Jasmine Harris, have joined Team GB's Youth Olympic Games team. The 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games is happening in Senegal from 31st October to 13th November 2026. Officially known as Dakar 2026, it is the very first Olympic sports event to take place on the African continent! 2,700 young athletes from all around the world will complete at the Games. The athletes on Team GB are aged between 14 and 18, and will compete in the seven sports of archery, badminton, boxing, coastal rowing beach sprint, fencing, gymnastics, and sailing. Archie, who is from Birmingham and only started archery four years ago, said, 'It's a shock that I'm going to an event such as this, considering I've only made my debut this year... I was speechless really. I don't know how to describe it. There's no real words.' Jasmine, who is from Oxfordshire and took up the sport at age 10 after an archery coach visited her primary school, said, 'I'm looking forward to meeting people from other sports at the Youth Olympics.'

Pictured: Team GB heading to the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar. **Source:** Archery GB on Facebook.

Have you ever tried archery? Would you like to?

Do we need AI wherever we go?

If we have AI with us all the time, we might miss out on the things and people around us.

Loren

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