

DECIPHERING EMOJI

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Let's think!

1. Do you often use emoji while chatting online?
2. Which emoji do you use the most?

Timid people may find it awkward to put their feelings or emotions into words. That's when emoji come in handy. The term 'emoji' originated from 'e' (which means 'picture') and 'moji' (which means 'character') in Japanese. Emoji evolved from 'emoticons' like :-) and ;-), which were popular in online chatrooms in the 1990s. Today, these cute, playful images are upgraded and widely used all over the world in this digital era. Many people believe that the use of emoji can facilitate communication and overcome language barriers, overlooking the fact that their meanings can vary from culture to culture. Emoji, if used improperly, may result in miscommunication and misunderstanding, and the consequence of it could be ghastly to imagine.

In the last sentence of the 1st paragraph, the writer's attitude towards the use of emoji is neutral. How different attitudes can be interpreted from the choice of words is illustrated below:

Positive: The use of emoji is something of a curate's egg. It adds colours to communication if it is well-used.

Negative: In my opinion, emoji are what burns bridges among people without you realising it.



Emoji and online messages are claimed to be inseparable in the digital world. Explicit and straightforward by nature, emoji,

More to Take Away

A study showed that people who often use emoji tend to be more socially open and empathetic, which makes them more approachable.

STEAM

Psychologist Albert Mehrabian found that only 7% of communication is verbal, while 38% is vocal (depends on our voices), and 55% is nonverbal (depends on our body language). In digital contexts, emoji can help express emotions that are conveyed by facial expressions in face-to-face interactions.

understandably, are often considered the first truly global language. Now, it is common to achieve efficiency in conversations on social networking platforms (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram) with emoji. For example, approval or contentment may be expressed with a 'thumbs up' gesture , while an appalling state of mind may be indicated by a 'crying' face . Nowadays, people have got used to using emoji. Imagine how unnatural or uninteresting it may seem when you send messages to your friends in pure text!

HEY 

Though it seems effortless to communicate and express feelings with emoji, the exact emotions conveyed by these cute icons could be hard to tell. Given that the meanings delivered by emoji are open to interpretation, communication, to be frank, is enhanced

THANKS! HAHAHA 

only when these additional non-verbal cues are interpreted accurately. An emoji can take on different meanings in different cultures and contexts. For instance, the emoji ‘two folded hands’ 🙏 could have different meanings, from a high five to a prayer or a gesture of gratitude. Another typical example is the emoji ‘face with tears of joy’ 😂, which can be interpreted both positively and negatively. It is relatable to many that the emoji can be understood as being joyous to the point of tears. Yet, it is also known to be a mocking expression that makes fun of something or someone silly. As for this ‘slightly smiling face’ emoji 😊, some people think it looks pleased and friendly, while others think that its faint, unnatural smile looks so ironic that it conveys passive aggression, that is, in fact, an indirect expression of anger or hatred!

The use of emoji undeniably facilitates communication on some occasions, but it may cause serious misunderstandings if one interprets the emoji in very different ways. It is wise to be aware of when, how and to whom we use a particular emoji. Emoji may probably add fun to your daily conversations with friends, and yet in written documents that require the message to be delivered precisely, like official reports and formal letters, it is not appropriate to use emoji to express one’s feelings.

~480 words

In which situation would the emoji ‘face with tears of joy’ NOT be used?

- A. Someone wanted to show gratitude to a teacher.
 - B. Someone found a joke very funny. (▶ ‘laughter to the point of tears’)
 - C. Someone wanted to buy things from a shop which was later discovered to have been closed. (▶ ‘a self-mocking expression’)
 - D. Someone thought another person had done something foolish. (▶ ‘a mocking expression’)
- ▶ Students may apply their understanding of ‘being joyous to the point of tears’ and ‘mocking’ to the situations above.



Looking into Grammar

Adjective patterns are used to give opinions.

1) Subject + to be + adjective + to-infinitive

✗ Music is soothing listen (✓ to listen) to.

2) It + to be + adjective + to-infinitive/gerund + object



✗ It is soothing listen (✓ to listen; ✓ listening) to music.

Note that when an intransitive verb takes a prepositional object, the preposition must not be dropped.

? Circle THREE adjectives in similarly structured sentences in paragraphs 3-4.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the editorial. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. According to paragraph 1, using emoji may _____.
- A. entertain people of different cultures
 - B. enhance communication
 - C. save time and energy
 - D. improve chatroom atmosphere
2. Read line 12. The word 'it' refers to _____.
- A. the language barrier
 - B. changes in emoji's meaning
 - C. improper use of emoji
 - D. cultural difference
-  3. The writer feels _____ in paragraph 1.
- A. furious
 - B. easy and relaxed
 - C. optimistic
 - D. worried
- 3** Skim for words with positive and negative connotations, especially adjectives, and identify the emotions carried.
4. Which of the following is NOT an example of 'passive aggression'?
- A. 'It's fine that you never consider inviting me.'
 - B. 'I know you have never cared about how I feel.'
 - C. 'I'm not angry, I never am!'
 - D. 'Never mind. I can join you next time.'
5. Using the emoji 'face with tears of joy' may cause misunderstanding because people _____.
- A. use it too often
 - B. find it offensive
 - C. interpret it differently
 - D. tend to use it inappropriately
-  6. From the last paragraph, we can infer that emoji users should use emoji _____.
- A. for emotionally sensitive people's sake
 - B. on occasions where people have consensus on what the emoji mean
 - C. in informal contexts where one can vent emotions freely
 - D. with serious consideration of the recipient's texting habits
7. Which of the following could be an alternative title for this editorial?
- A. Emoji—Aid or Hinder Communication?
 - B. Emoji—Our Daily Necessity
 - C. Emoji—Best Global Language
 - D. Emoji—Who needs it?
- 7** A title should be concise and able to give a sense of the most important message the writer conveys.



Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the editorial.
For question 4, answer in a complete sentence.

1. Determine whether each of the following statements is true, false, or undecidable because not enough information is given.

Statement	True	False	Not Given
(i) Outspoken people find emoji unnecessary.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) Emoji are universal in the meaning they express.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) Passive aggression refers to negative emotions delivered in less explicit ways.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



2. Which of the following scenarios is the ‘slightly smiling face’ emoji applicable to?

- A. pleased by a compliment B. unimpressed by silly jokes
 C. tired of mum’s nagging D. all of the above

3. Look for words in the editorial that are similar in meaning to the following:

- (i) obstacles (*n.*) _____ (para. 1)
(ii) thankfulness (*n.*) _____ (para. 3)
(iii) accurately (*adv.*) _____ (para. 4)

3 Look for words in the editorial with the same parts of speech.

4. Do you think emoji are good for communication? Explain your answer.



5. In general, the writer holds a rather _____ view towards the use of emoji.

- A. critical B. neutral
 C. ironic D. doubtful

5 Note that the overall tone cannot be inferred from the tone of a single sentence.

6. Complete the summary of the editorial by circling the best option.

People can communicate (i) *easily / poorly* with emoji, but (ii) *precise / improper* use of emoji may lead to (iii) *terrific / terrible* communication problems on some occasions. For example, using emoji in academic reports is (iv) *appropriate / inappropriate* as emoji are (v) *formal / informal*.

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the pictures below with the words related to emotions from the word box.

pleased
relieved

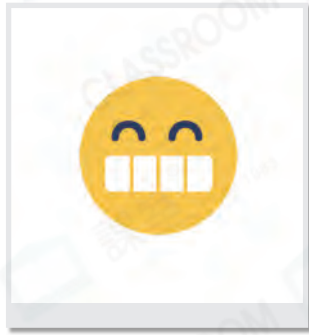
irritated
discouraged

grinning
nauseated

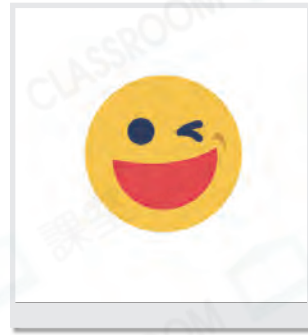
smirking
winking



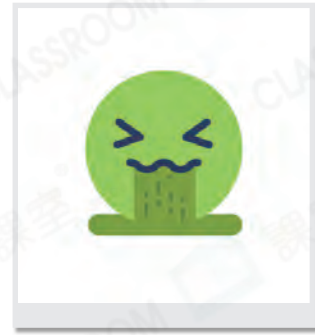
1. _____



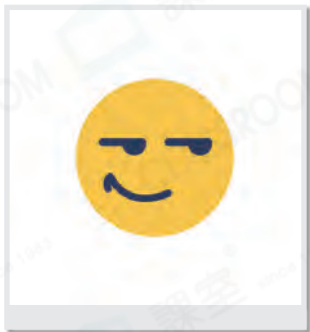
2. _____



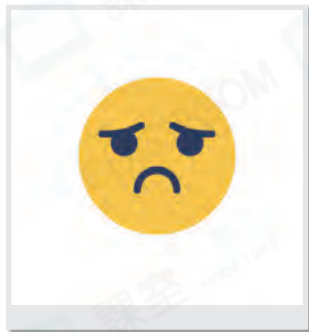
3. _____



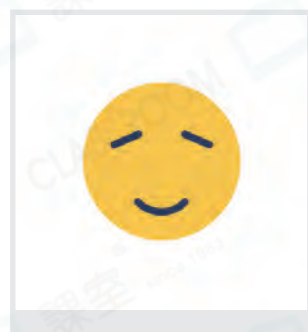
4. _____



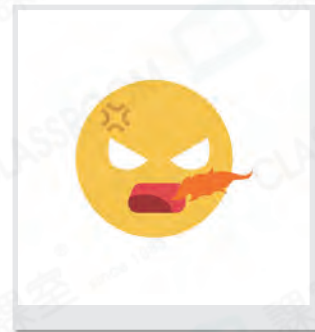
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Let's Discuss!



- Some say using emoji is convenient for communication, while some say it adversely affects one's language proficiency. Whose side are you on? Why?
- Have you ever had a misunderstanding with your friends because of the use of emoji?

Word Craft



Many adjectives, like the eight ones above, are participles, which are descriptive words formed from verbs. They are used to describe a person, a thing or a situation.

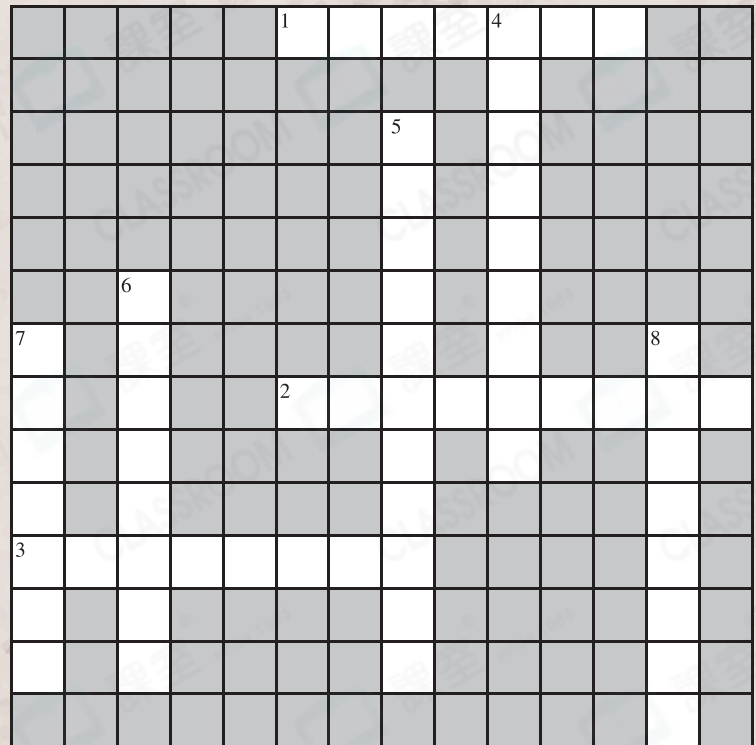
e.g. irritating
confusing
interesting

Part D Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle below with the appropriate words introduced on the previous page.

ACROSS:

- Sally is such a charming girl. She keeps _____ at me.
I am so smitten!
- Oh my goodness! The avocados are definitely spoilt! You can tell by Venus's _____ look.
- Alan always puts on a _____ expression in the hope of looking cool and confident.



DOWN:

- Apologise to Dad at once! He gets _____ when people lie to him.
- Perhaps Joey was right that Alan had failed his exam. He looked so _____.
I should have comforted him.
- Look at your _____ face! You must have won the competition. I told you your hard work would pay off one day!
- There is a smile on Lily's face. She looks _____ with her performance on the stage.
- We were _____ that we all had passed the exam, so Miss Lam would not be mad at us.

**SMASH DOORS
OF CONVENTION
WITH AXES**



COIL & OIL

IPSUM DOLOR SIT AMET, CONSECTETUR ADIPISCING ELIT, SED DO EIUSMOP
INCIDidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. officia deserunt.

355 532 35

*The three
phases of Xmas*

