Emoji

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Emoji (⿳⿳⿳) is the Japanese term for the picture characters or emoticons used in Japanese electronic messages and webpages. Originally meaning pictograph, the word literally means "picture" (*e*) + "letter" (*moji*). The characters are used much like emoticons elsewhere, but a wider range is provided, and the icons are standardized and built into the handsets. Some emoji are very specific to Japanese culture, such as a bowing (apologizing) businessman, a face wearing a face mask or a group of emoji representing popular foods: ramen noodles, dango, onigiri, Japanese curry, sushi. The three main Japanese operators, NTT DoCoMo, au and SoftBank Mobile (formerly Vodafone), have each defined their own variants of emoji.

Although typically only available in Japan, the characters and code required to use emoji are, thanks to the nature of software development, often present in many phones' software. As a result, some phones, such as Windows Phone 7 line, and the iPhone, allow access to the symbols without requiring a Japanese operator. Emoji have also started appearing in emailing services such as Gmail (accessed via Google Labs) in April 2009[1] and websites such as Flipnote Hatena. Several SMS applications for Android powered phones[2] also provide plugins that allow the use of Emoji. Apple's Mac OS X operating system supports emoji as of version 10.7 Lion.[3]

Contents

Legacy encoded Emoji

For NTT DoCoMo's i-mode, each emoji symbol is drawn on a 12×12 pixel grid. When transmitted, emoji symbols are specified as a two-byte sequence, in the private-use range E63E through E757 in the Unicode character space, or F89F through F9FC for Shift-JIS. The basic specification has 176 symbols, with 76 more added in phones that support C-HTML 4.0.

Emoji pictograms by au are specified using the IMG tag. SoftBank Mobile emoji are wrapped between SI/SO

escape sequences, and support colors and animation. DoCoMo's emoji are the most compact to transmit while au's version is more flexible based on open standards.

Emoji in the Unicode standard

Hundreds of Emoji characters were encoded in the Unicode Standard in version 6.0 released in October 2010 (and in the related international standard ISO/IEC 10646). The additions, originally requested by Google (Kat Momoi, Mark Davis, and Markus Scherer wrote the first draft for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee in August 2007) and Apple Inc. (whose Yasuo Kida and Peter Edberg joined the first official UTC proposal for 607 characters as coauthors in January 2009), went through a long series of commenting by members of the Unicode Consortium and national standardization bodies of various countries participating in ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2, especially the United States, Germany, Ireland (led by Michael Everson), and Japan; various new characters (especially symbols for maps and European signs) were added during the consensus-building process.

The core emoji set as of Unicode 6.0 consists of 722 characters, of which 114 characters map to sequences of one or more characters in the pre-6.0 Unicode standard, and the remaining 608 characters map to sequences of one or more characters introduced in Unicode 6.0.[4] There is no block specifically set aside for emoji – the new symbols were encoded in seven different blocks (some newly created), and there exists a Unicode data file called EmojiSources.txt (http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/EmojiSources.txt) that includes mappings to and from the Japanese vendors' legacy character sets.

A set of Regional Indicator Symbols were defined as part of this set of characters as an alternative to encoding separate characters for national flags.

Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs[1] Unicode chart (http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F300.pdf) (PDF)															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1F30x	◉	▨	✎	⛫	⛰	☼	▦	▧	▥	▩	♨	◮	▨	🌍	🌎	🌏
U+1F31x	⊕	●	◑	◐	◯	◯	◑	◐	●	☽	🌚	☾	☾	😌	☀	☆
U+1F32x	✰															
U+1F33x	⬡	⇞	♣	♧	🌴	🌵		⚘	✿	🌹	❀	❁	✾	◖	◗	✿
U+1F34x	✤	🍁	◭	◇	🍄	🍅	🍆	🍇	◯	🍉	◯	◔	⚲	🍍	🍎	🍏
U+1F35x	◊	🍑	🍒	🍓	🍔	🍕	◊	◊	◑	🍙	🍚	🍜	🍝	◻	🍟
U+1F36x	◁	🍢	🍣	🍤	🍥	◎	🍦	🍧	🍨	◉	◔	◇	◊	🍭	🍮	🍯
U+1F37x	🍰	▦	🍲	◑	🍴	◑	◊	🍷	🍸	🍹	🍺	🍻	🍼			
U+1F38x	🎀	🎁	🎂	🎃	🎄	🎅	🎆	🎇	◯	🎉	🎊	🎋	◈	🎍	👘	🎏
U+1F39x	◉	▧	◇	🎓												
U+1F3Ax	🎠	🎡	🎢	🎧	🎤	🎥	🎦	🎧	🎨	🎩	◭	▦	🎬	🎭	🎮	🎯
U+1F3Bx	🎰	🎱	🎲	🎳	🎴	🎵	🎶	🎷	🎸	🎹	🎺	🎻	🎼	◔	◉	🎾
U+1F3Cx	🏀	🏁	🏂	🏃	🏄		🏆	🏇	◎	🏈	🏉					
U+1F3Dx																

U+1F3Ex							BANK	ATM			24H				
U+1F3Fx															
U+1F40x															
U+1F41x															
U+1F42x															
U+1F43x															
U+1F44x															
U+1F45x															
U+1F46x															
U+1F47x															
U+1F48x															
U+1F49x															
U+1F4Ax				ZZZ				=3							100
U+1F4Bx		$¥	$		¥		€	£							
U+1F4Cx	DVD						12								
U+1F4Dx															
U+1F4Ex															
U+1F4Fx					OFF										
U+1F50x															
U+1F51x										BACK	END	ON!	SOON	TOP	18	10
U+1F52x	ABCD	abcd	1234		ABC										
U+1F53x															
U+1F54x															
U+1F55x															
U+1F56x															
U+1F57x															
U+1F58x															
U+1F59x															
U+1F5Ax															
U+1F5Bx															
U+1F5Cx															
U+1F5Dx															
U+1F5Ex															
U+1F5Fx															

Notes

1. ^ As of Unicode version 6.1

Emoticons[1] Unicode.org chart (http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F600.pdf) (PDF)															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1F60x	▨	😁	😂	😃	😄	😅	😆	😇	😈	😉	😊	😋	😌	😍	😎	😏
U+1F61x	😐	▨	😒	😓	😔	▨	😖	▨	😘	▨	😚	▨	😜	😝	😞	▨
U+1F62x	😠	😡	😢	😣	😤	😥	▨	▨	😨	😩	😪	😫	▨	😭	▨	▨
U+1F63x	😰	😱	😲	😳	▨	😵	😶	😷	😸	😹	😺	😻	😼	😽	😾	😿
U+1F64x	🙀					🙅	🙆	🙇	🙈	🙉	🙊	🙋	🙌	🙍	🙎	🙏

Notes

1.^ As of Unicode version 6.1

Transport And Map Symbols[1] Unicode.org chart (http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F680.pdf) (PDF)															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+1F68x	🚀	🚁	🚂	🚃	🚄	🚅	🚆	🚇	🚈	🚉	🚊	🚋	🚌	🚍	🚎	🚏
U+1F69x	🚐	🚑	🚒	🚓	🚔	🚕	🚖	🚗	🚘	🚙	🚚	🚛	🚜	🚝	🚞	🚟
U+1F6Ax	🚠	🚡	🚢	🚣	🚤	🚥	🚦	🚧	🚨	🚩	🚪	🚫	🚬	🚭	🚮	🚯
U+1F6Bx	🚰	🚱	🚲	🚳	🚴	🚵	🚶	🚷	🚸	🚹	🚺	🚻	🚼	🚽	🚾	🚿
U+1F6Cx	🛀	🛁	🛂	🛃	🛄	🛅										
U+1F6Dx																
U+1F6Ex																
U+1F6Fx																

Notes

1.^ As of Unicode version 6.1

Miscellaneous Symbols[1] Unicode.org chart (http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U2600.pdf) (PDF)															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+260x	☀	☁	☂	☃	☄	★	☆	☇	☈	☉	☊	☋	☌	☍	☎	☏
U+261x	☐	☑	☒	☓	☔	☕	☖	☗	☘	☙	☚	☛	☜	☝	☞	☟
U+262x	☠	☡	☢	☣	☤	☥	☦	☧	☨	☩	☪	☫	☬	☭	☮	☯
U+263x	☰	☱	☲	☳	☴	☵	☶	☷	☸	☹	☺	☻	☼	☽	☾	☿
U+264x	♀	♁	♂	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+265x	↗	♎	♒	♓	♔	♕	♖	♗	♘	♙	♚	♛	♜	♝	♞	♟
U+266x	♠	♡	♢	♣	♤	♥	♦	♧	♨	♩	♪	♫	♬	♭	♮	♯
U+267x	♰	♱	♲	♳	♴	♵	♶	♷	♸	♹	♺	♻	♼	♽	♾	♿
U+268x	⚀	⚁	⚂	⚃	⚄	⚅	⚆	⚇	⚈	⚉	⚊	⚋	⚌	⚍	⚎	⚏
U+269x	⚐	⚑	⚒	⚓	⚔	⚕	⚖	⚗	⚘	⚙	⚚	⚛	⚜	⚝	⚞	⚟
U+26Ax	⚠	⚡	⚢	⚣	⚤	⚥	⚦	⚧	⚨	⚩	⚪	⚫	⚬	⚭	⚮	⚯
U+26Bx	⚰	⚱	⚲	⚳	⚴	⚵	⚶	⚷	⚸	⚹	⚺	⚻	⚼	⚽	⚾	⚿
U+26Cx	⛀	⛁	⛂	⛃	⛄	⛅	⛆	⛇	⛈	⛉	⛊	⛋	⛌	⛍	⛎	⛏
U+26Dx	⛐	⛑	⛒	⛓	⛔	⛕	⛖	⛗	⛘	⛙	⛚	⛛	⛜	⛝	⛞	⛟
U+26Ex	⛠	⛡	⛢	⛣	⛤	⛥	⛦	⛧	⛨	⛩	⛪	⛫	⛬	⛭	⛮	⛯
U+26Fx	⛰	⛱	⛲	⛳	⛴	⛵	⛶	⛷	⛸	⛹	⛺	⛻	⛼	⛽	⛾	⛿

Notes

    1.^ As of Unicode version 6.1

Emoji characters

SoftBank Encoding

This encoding was used in Apple's iOS prior to version 5.[5]

Apple Encoding

OS X Lion

This set includes all the symbols currently available in Apple's Emoji font.
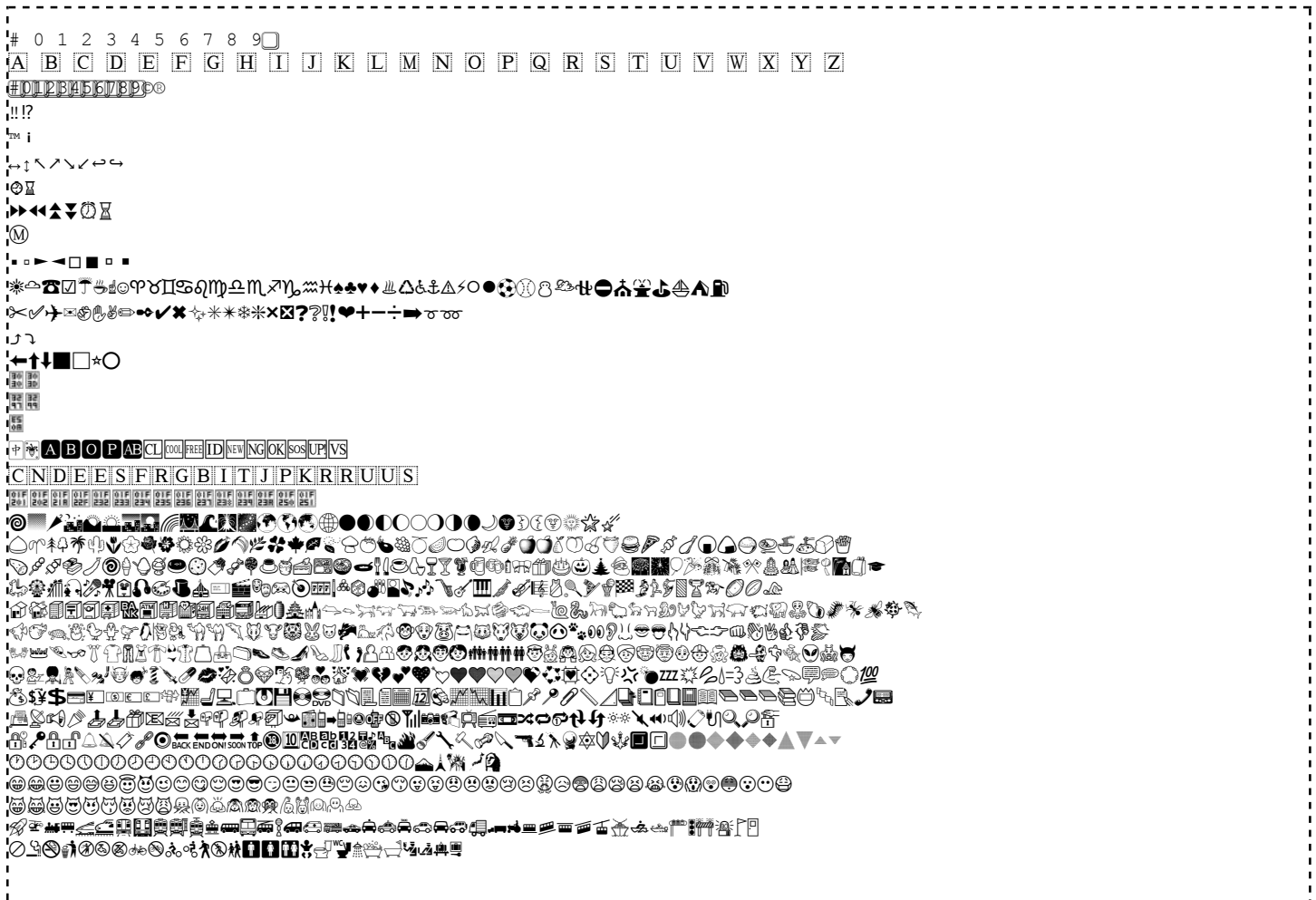
OS X Mountain Lion

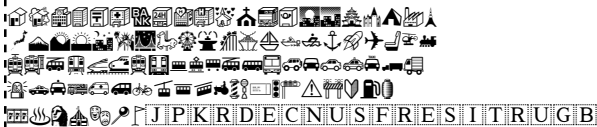This set includes all the symbols accessible in Apple's Emoji font on iOS 6 beta.

Persons

Nature

(emoji character grid — animals and nature)

Objects

(emoji character grid — objects)

Places

(emoji character grid — places)

J P K R D E C N U S F R E S I T R U G B

Symbols
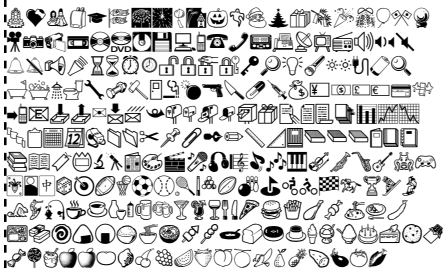
(emoji character grid — symbols)

See also

- iConji
- Emoticons

References

1. ^ New in Labs: Extra emoticons (http://gmailblog.blogspot.com/2009/04/new-in-labs-extra-emoticons.html)
2. ^ https://market.android.com/search?q=emoji&c=apps
3. ^ http://support.apple.com/kb/index?page=search&src=support_site.home.search&locale=en_US&q=emoji
4. ^ Unicode FAQ: Emoji and Dingbats (http://www.unicode.org/faq/emoji_dingbats.html) – Q: How are emoji encoded in Unicode? (http://www.unicode.org/faq/emoji_dingbats.html#4)
5. ^ "Supporting iOS 5 New Emoji Encoding" (http://blog.manbolo.com/2011/12/12/supporting-ios-5-new-emoji-encoding) . Manbolo Blog. http://blog.manbolo.com/2011/12/12/supporting-ios-5-new-emoji-encoding. Retrieved 2012-05-22.

External links

- NTT DoCoMo: Emoji (http://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english/service/imode/make/content/pictograph/)
- au by KDDI: Emoji (http://www.au.kddi.com/ezfactory/tec/spec/3.html) , Type 1 (http://www.au.kddi.com/ezfactory/tec/spec/icon_mono.html) 2 (http://www.au.kddi.com/ezfactory/tec/spec/icon_color.html) (in Japanese)
- Emoji Symbols (http://sites.google.com/site/unicodesymbols/Home/emoji-symbols) - The original proposals for encoding of Emoji symbols as Unicode characters.
- The Unicode FAQ - Emoji & Dingbats (http://www.unicode.org/faq/emoji_dingbats.html)

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