



lingoda

# Emojis in language

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2026S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

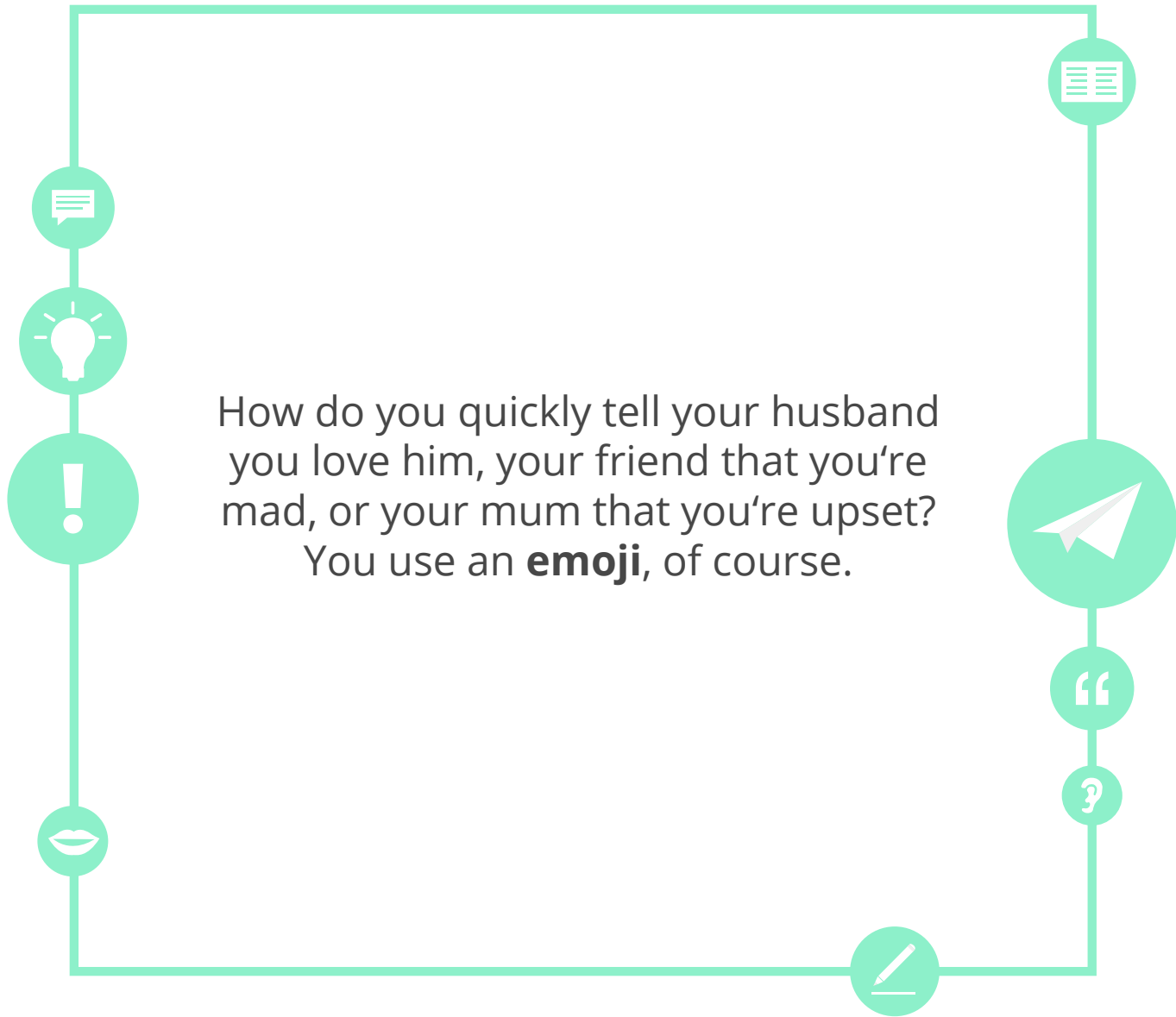




## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a complex text about the evolving use of emojis in language.
- Can share my own opinion on the development of modern communication in detail.







## Text messages

How often do you write text messages? Do you prefer to text or speak directly on the phone?  
Do you have a different preference depending on who you are speaking to?





## Text messages

**Can you decode these text messages?  
Do you ever use this style of writing when sending messages?**

How r u?

C u 2moro.

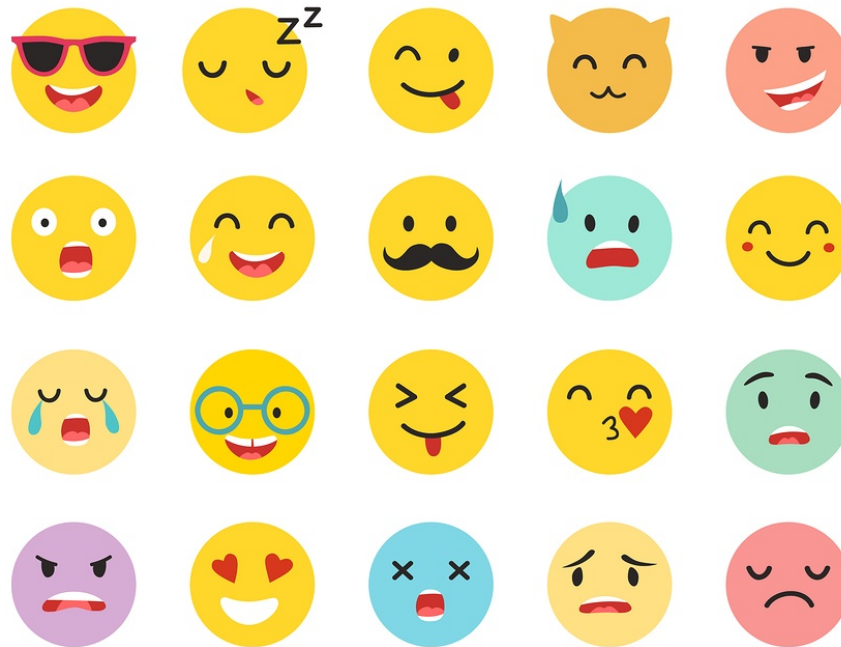
I'm w8ing 4 u.

B back l8r.



## Using emojis

Do you use emojis? Why (not)?





## New vocabulary

**humble**

She's very **humble** despite her huge success.

**miscommunication**

There was an unfortunate **miscommunication** – he thought I'd be there at 8, but I actually left my house at 8.

**gratitude**

I wanted to show my **gratitude** by cooking you a meal.

**outlet**

I needed an **outlet** for my anger so I started boxing.

**shorthand**

She's always in a rush so she takes notes in **shorthand**.

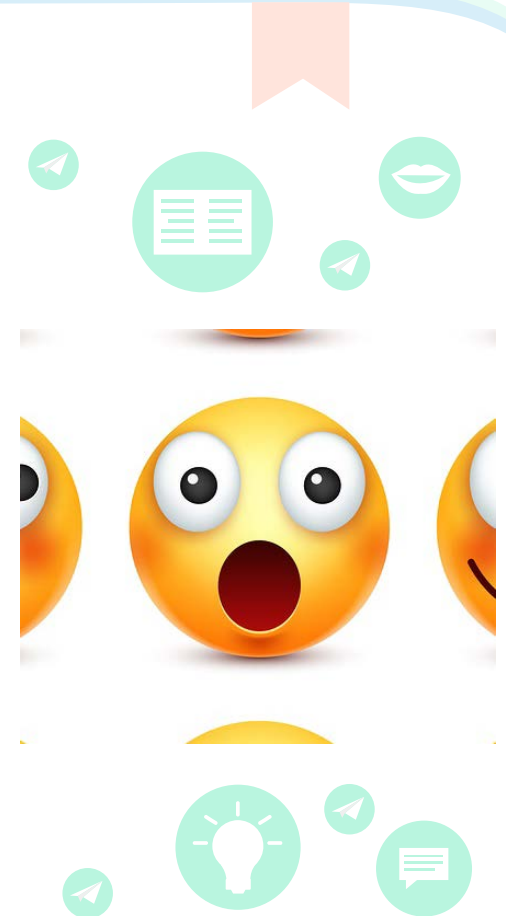
**hieroglyphics**

Ancient Egyptians wrote using **hieroglyphics**.



## Emojis in language

It is said that a picture can convey a thousand words, so what of the **humble** emoji? Can it convey a thousand emotions? Most people are familiar with and have used emojis, little faces which express different emotions, when sending text messages or e-mails. There is even a World Emoji Day when, presumably, we are supposed to communicate our every emotion in the form of a yellow face.







## Emojis in language

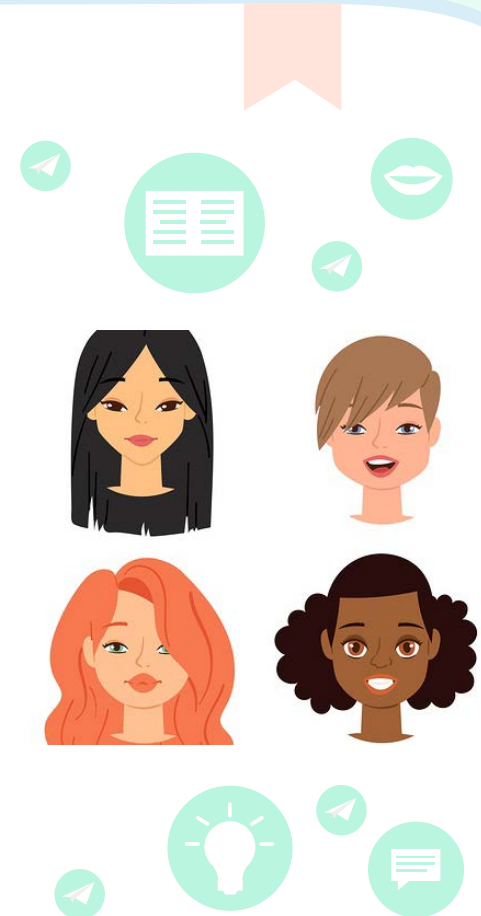
Emojis were first introduced to mobile phones in Japan in 1999, but were not made available to the international market until 2011. After a slow start, they **exploded in popularity** some years later and can now be found in almost every message we write to friends, used as a **shorthand** for our reactions and feelings. *Emoji* in fact is a Japanese word which simply means *picture character*. Indeed, there are far more than smiley faces to be found on our screens, with characters ranging from a caterpillar to a hammer.





## Emojis in language

While emojis may lack the grammatical and emotional complexity of true language, they express our thoughts and feelings **succinctly**. As we communicate more and more via **messaging platforms** and our need for speed increases, our usage of emojis seems to be increasing; an emoji can tell someone *I'm mad at you* or *don't worry about it* without the need for us to type it out. We can now **relay** emotional concepts in a simple picture rather than making the effort to give long explanations.





## Emojis in language

Some argue that the emoji **injects** emotion into our written language. We are often able to convey something which is obvious in face-to-face interactions via tone of voice, body language and gesturing, but which is generally harder to convey through text. Moreover, with the **abundance** of emojis nowadays, all sorts of skin tones, hair types and body shapes are represented; in a way, emojis can represent a sense of self.



## Vocabulary review: discuss the meaning and make a sentence with each word

to explode in popularity

to relay

to inject

succinct

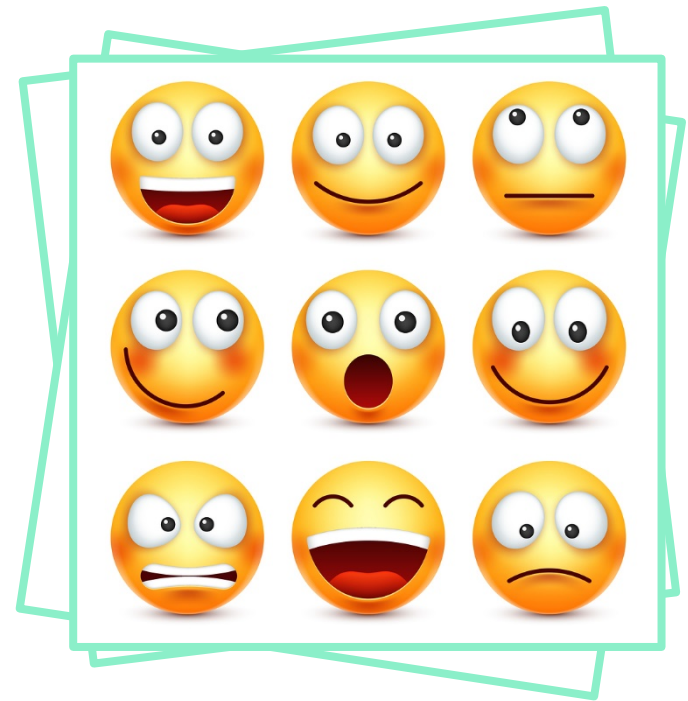
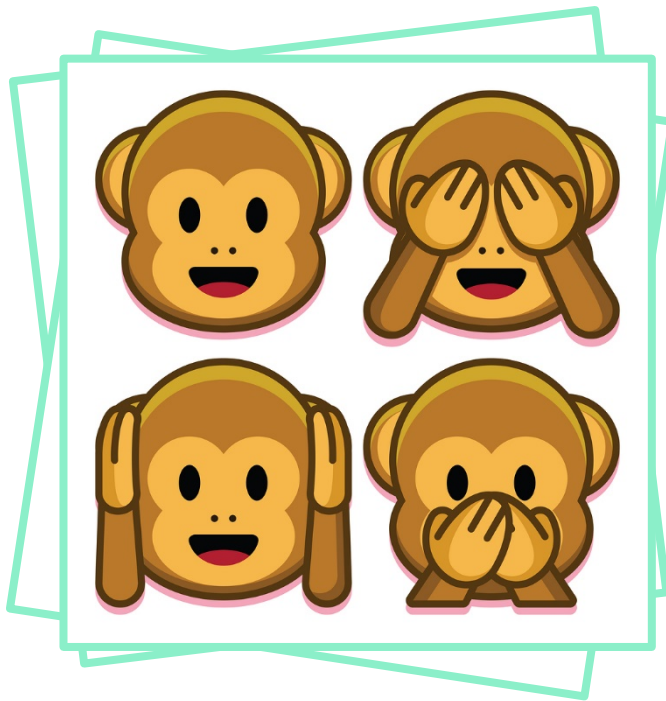
to convey

regression



## The growth of emojis

Why do you think the popularity of emojis has grown exponentially in recent years?





## What do you think?

**How important do you think these various things are in communication?**  
**Can emojis replace these things in written communication?**



tone of voice

facial  
expression

body language

gesture



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



## Think as you listen



What main **concern** does the text raise about emojis and human development? Are you surprised by it?  
Discuss with your teacher.





## Decode these emojis

What do these emojis mean? Do you think they could be interpreted differently by different people?





## Miscommunication



Have you ever experienced an instance of **miscommunication** when using emojis?

Do you think the same happens when we write full messages?



## There are no words

Think of some **ambiguous** emojis whose emotions you can't easily describe, or which you wouldn't see in real life outside of a screen.

Do your best to describe some of them to your teacher and see if they can guess which ones you mean!





## My day in emojis

Think of the most common feelings you experience during an average day. Is there an emoji you could use to describe each? Or are some emotions impossible to express using just one image?

If you could describe an average day using emojis, do you think it would be an accurate description of your feelings that day?





## Communication



**Do you think using emojis is damaging our communication with others?**



**Is it appropriate?**

**Are there any circumstances under which you would not use an emoji? When might it be inappropriate?**





**Do you think emojis will ever  
make their way into formal  
written communication?**





## The future of emojis

**Think back to page 5. It could be argued that the use of this style of messaging is declining among young people.**

**Do you think this sort of decline could eventually happen with emojis too?**





## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



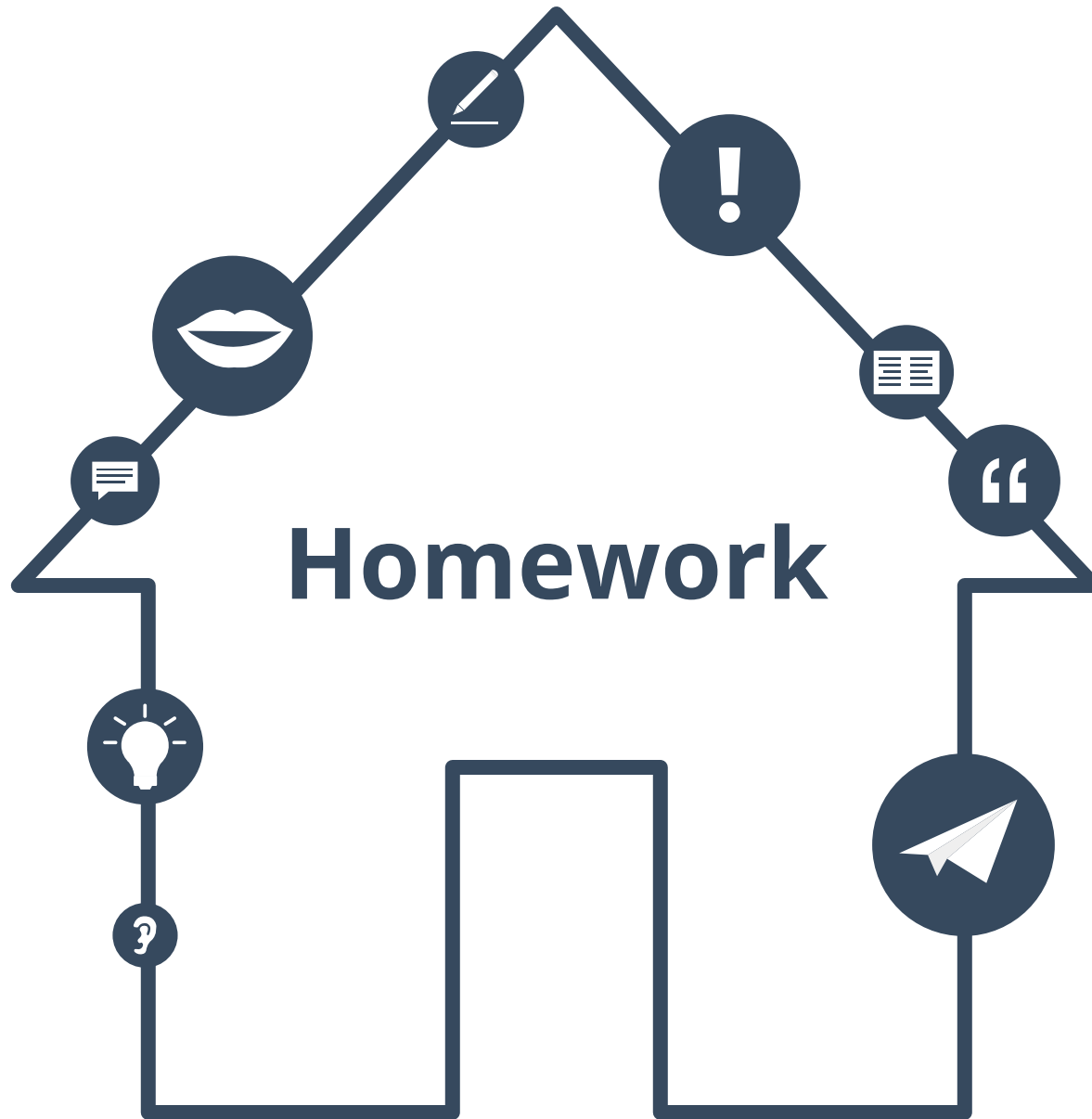


## Transcription

### Exercise p. 16

Emojis are a universal language. Used by over 1.5 billion people, from Seoul to San Francisco, a smiley face means the same thing. There are, however, instances of miscommunication when, for example, a certain symbol appears differently on a different screen. Moreover, in certain societies or social groups a symbol can represent something that it doesn't in others. Does the emoji of two folded hands represent gratitude, prayer or a high five?

On a more worrying note, some studies have suggested that many young people find it easier to express their emotions via emojis than in verbal communication. While it is positive that people have some outlet to show how they feel, an angry face cannot possibly convey the complexity of our feelings as we can during face-to-face communication. This reliance on pictures and symbols signifies to many a regression, rather than progress, taking us back to an age of hieroglyphics.





## Positives and negatives

Write two lists of the positives and negatives of emojis. Which one outweighs the other?

positives

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negatives

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## Write a short text

Using the lists on the previous page, write a short text about the positive and negatives of using emojis.

emotion

gesture

intonation

miscommunication

regression

shorthand

A writing area consisting of a vertical column of 15 small circles on the left side, followed by a large rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.



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