

Possible Emoji Representation for Natural Hair Colors, Features, and Styles

To: UTC
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Requests for representation of red hair in emoji have been ongoing, yet prove a challenge to address due to a number of competing implementation options.

This is a proposal to provide for the representation of a red head emoji, as well as naturally occurring hair colors, features, and styles. Also proposed in this document are methods of representing white hair, curly (or afro) hair, and baldness.



Background

The Unicode Technical Committee assessed a previous version of this proposal (L2/17-001 [Summary of options for redhead emoji](#)), and requested a revised proposal focussing on options #1 and #4.

These have been re-numbered options #1 and #2 in this proposal, for clarity.

Examples

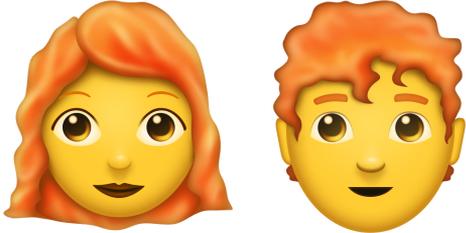
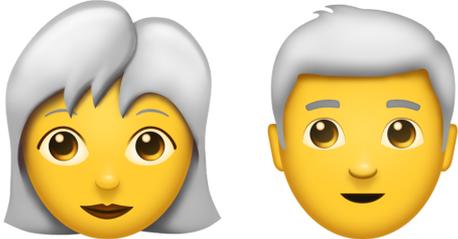
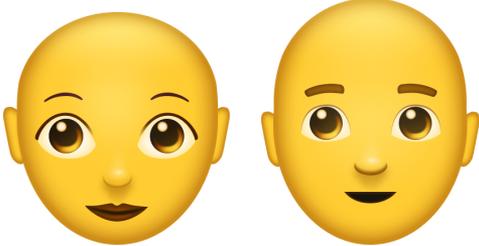
Images included in this document are examples only, used to visually represent each style. Actual appearance may vary.

Omissions

Specifically omitted from this proposal are non-naturally occurring features, such as blue hair, piercings and tattoos.

Proposed Additions

We propose the following new emoji for red hair, white hair, curly hair, and baldness. These focus on appearances that aren't currently supported in the informal skin tone/hair color pairings used by many vendors.

Name	Sample Images
<p>PERSON WITH RED HAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Red / orange / auburn hair- Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jessica Chastain- Ed Sheeran	
<p>PERSON WITH WHITE HAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- White or grey haired adult- Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- That Poppy- Anderson Cooper	
<p>PERSON WITH CURLY HAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- May be used to represent either curly or afro hair- Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ciara Anderson- Kit Harington	
<p>PERSON WITH BALD HEAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No hair on head or shaven head- Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sinead O'Connor- Samuel L Jackson	

Notes

1. Each option may include variations for **gender** and **skin tone**
2. The number of variations supported is intended to be the same, regardless of which implementation option is chosen (see below)

Implementation Option #1: New Code Points

The first implementation option involves the creation of new code points for each distinct appearance.

Each option may support variations for gender and skin tone through the use of ZWJ Sequences and modifiers.

Name	Type	Implementation	Display Example
PERSON WITH RED HAIR	New Code Point		
Man with red hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
Woman with red hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
PERSON WITH WHITE HAIR	New Code Point		
Man with white hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
Woman with white hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
PERSON WITH CURLY HAIR	New Code Point		
Man with curly hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
Woman with curly hair	ZWJ Sequence	 	
PERSON WITH BALD HEAD	New Code Point		
Man with bald head	ZWJ Sequence	 	
Woman with bald head	ZWJ Sequence	 	

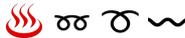
Notes

1. A total of four (4) new code points are required for this option.
2. *U+2640 ♀ FEMALE SIGN* and *U+2642 ♂ MALE SIGN* may be used for genders.
3. Base character may display as any gendered image, or as a gender-inclusive person.
4. Due to the requirement of new code points, the earliest this option could be implemented would be 2018 with the next Unicode (11.0) release.

Implementation Option #2: ZWJ Sequences for hair color

An alternative means of supporting these features is the use of ZWJ Sequences.

These may use a base emoji of ADULT, MAN, or WOMAN; combined with a separate emoji to create a documented sequence.

Name	Base	+ Existing (examples)	or Swatches (new chars)
PERSON WITH RED HAIR			
Man with red hair			
Woman with red hair			
PERSON WITH WHITE HAIR			
Man with white hair			
Woman with white hair			
PERSON WITH CURLY HAIR			
Man with curly hair			
Woman with curly hair			
PERSON WITH BALD HEAD			
Man with bald head			
Woman with bald head			

Notes

1. Fallback options for some of these ZWJ Sequences may be confusing or offensive to some users.
2. Other options for suitable joining characters include:
 - a. Swatch characters, which would require the approval of relevant new code points in a future Unicode release:

- i. Color swatches have been proposed in the past¹. These could be suitable for new hair colors, but not styles such as curly or bald.
 - ii. Alternative “hair style” swatches which could cover the specific examples listed in this document, and be extended if required.
 - b. Non-emoji Unicode characters in the *Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs* Block could be given emoji status, and used to create a suitable ZWJ Sequence.
3. If no new code points are required, this option could be implemented prior to the next Unicode release.

Precedent

Precedent for the new emoji for specific human features include the compatibility character PERSON WITH BLOND HAIR and the more recent BEARDED PERSON.

U+1F471 PERSON WITH BLOND HAIR

- Blond-Haired Man
- Blond-Haired Woman

U+1F9D4 BEARDED PERSON

Future Plans

As per past UTC discussion, there are no plans at present for bald professions, redheaded sportspeople, or white-haired people performing gestures.

If such features are deemed important for inclusion in future, further characters or ZWJ Sequences may be proposed in a manner similar to this proposal.

Sample Images

Thanks to Joshua Jones (Emojipedia) who designed the [sample images](#) used in this document.

¹ Color Swatch proposal (Hunt) <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16318-ten-colors.pdf>

