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## Oxford Dictionaries 'Word Of The Year' Is . . . An Emoji?

By Meera Dolasa on November 17, 2015

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[© Oxford University Press]

We all know that life without emojis, (*the small digital icons that we use ad nauseam*) would be extremely boring. Hence, it is only fitting that the editors of the **prestigious** Oxford English Dictionary chose 😂 – The emoji with the tears of joy as its “Word of the Year” for 2015.

5 The company that announced its unusual word choice on November 16th said that it was picked over several other traditional **contenders**. Among them were “**refugee**”, “**sharing economy**” and “**on fleek**”. However, it was this simple emoji that **resonated** with the editors because it appeared to best describe the “**ethos**”, mood, and preoccupations of 2015.”



[© Oxford University Press]

10 They also thought that this was a good year to pay **homage** to the emoji. For though they have been around since the late 1990s, the use of the digital icons and the word that describes them, has escalated sharply this year. Besides, emojis are now used by people of all ages, not just teenagers.

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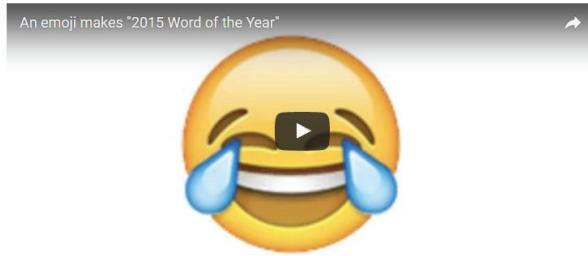
15 Also, though the word stems from the Japanese language – e (*picture*), You Might Also Like... moji (*character or letter*), the digital icons can be understood by everyone regardless of the language they speak. Hence it only makes sense to acknowledge their importance to global communication.



[Source: PA Photos Limited]

20 As to how they selected 😂 from the thousands of emojis that are available? The company says that they partnered with a leading mobile technology company SwiftKey to determine the most popular emoji. Turns out that “tears of joy” is the most used icon. According to SwiftKey, 😂 made up 17% of all emojis used in the U.S.A and an 25 **astounding** 20 % in the **United Kingdom!**

Though this is the first time the Oxford University Press has selected an image for its “word of the year”, it is not the first time they have tried to **incorporate** modern **lingo** into their 150-year-old publication. In 2013, in **recognition** of the growing popularity of self-portraits, the editors selected “selfie”, for the “Word of the Year”!



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#### Article Comprehension (5 questions)

1. What is Oxford Dictionary's 'Word of the Year'?
2. What were some of the other words they considered?

#### Vocabulary in Context

"The company that announced its unusual word choice on November 16th said that it was picked over several other traditional **contenders**."



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#### Vocabulary

**ad nauseam** **astounding** **contenders**  
**ethos** **homage** **incorporate** **lingo** **on fleek** **prestigious** **recognition** **refugee**  
**resonated** **sharing** **economy**

#### Geography

**United Kingdom!**

#### Comments

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**swbat** 11 months ago  
 I really think that emoji shouldnt be the word of the year because I think that the word minecraft should because everyone loves minecraft

**emily** 11 months ago  
 i liked the point of this video I also love emoji it was a great video

**Gabne** 11 months ago  
 I love emojis! They are my favourite thing! I even made chocolate emoji lollipops! 😊

Excerpt from [www.dogonews.com](http://www.dogonews.com)

\* [www.dogonews.com](http://www.dogonews.com): online network that allows 10 to 14-year-olds to engage with digital media “in a fun, safe and social environment”

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