



# Falling Debris Emoji

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## I. Identification

| Sample Image  | Proposed Unicode and CLDR name | Possible CLDR English keywords         | Closest Unicode Emoji  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
|  | Falling debris                 | avalanche, danger, disaster, landslide |  |

Note: "Landslide" was chosen as the name of this emoji because landslides represent a broader category of disasters, including avalanches.

## II. Images



### License

We certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the UTC.

## III. Sort location



## II. Selection factors — Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

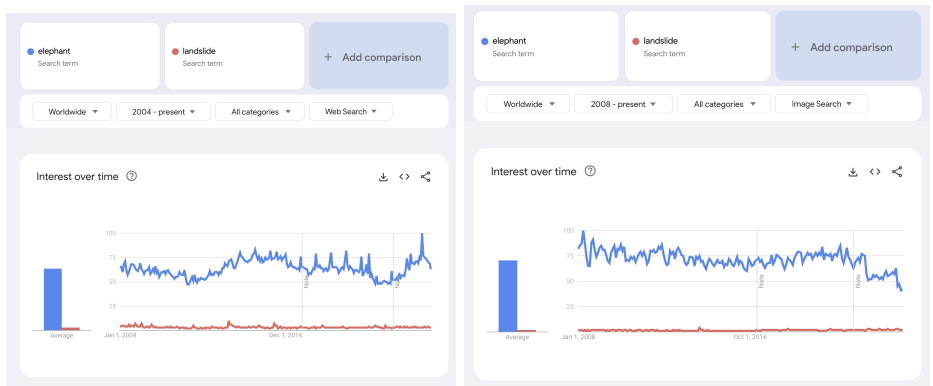
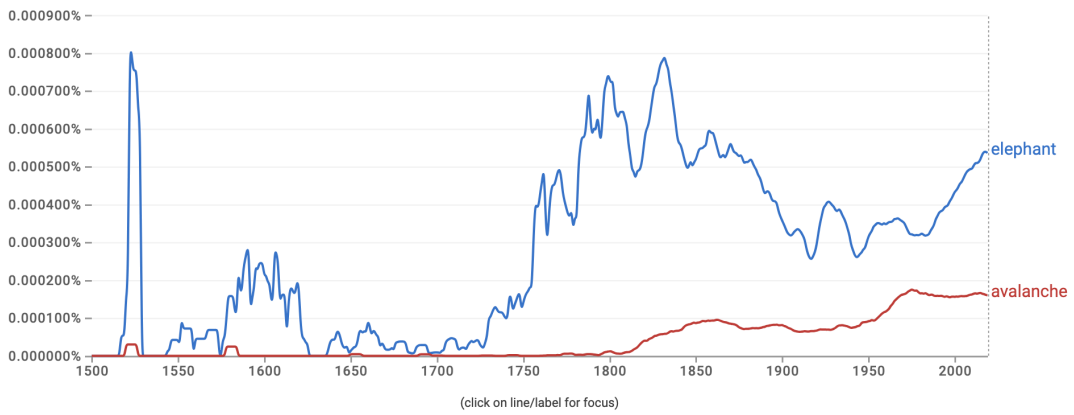
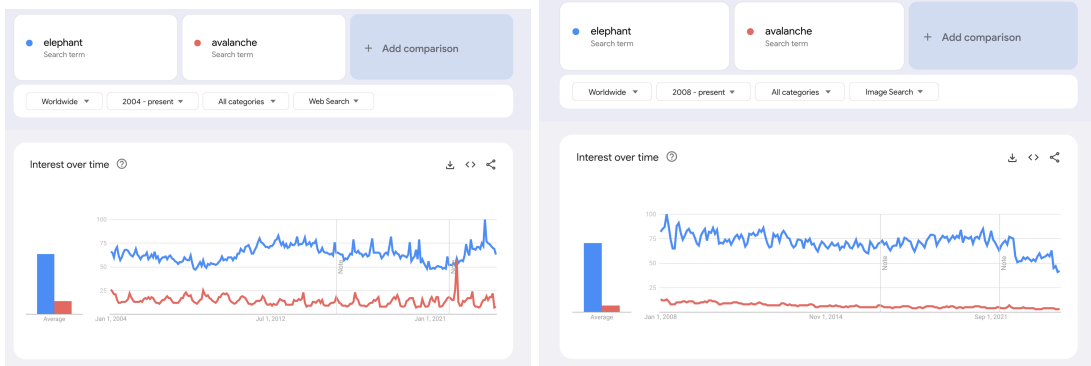
n/a

### B. Expected use

#### 1. Frequency

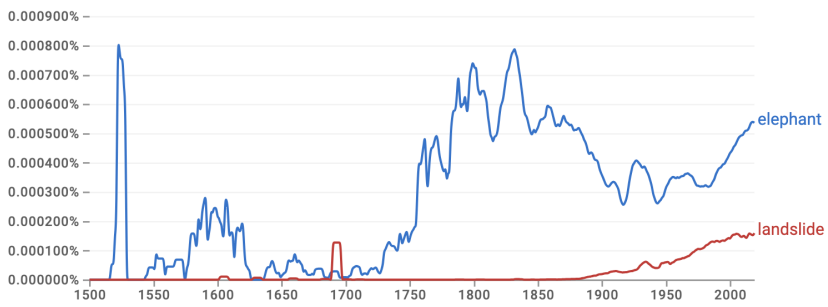
| Search term | Google Search             | Google Video Search     | Google Books            |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| avalanche   | About 244,000,000         | About 7,650,000         | About 6,780,000 r       |
| landslide   | About 138,000,000 results | About 4,680,000 results | About 5,350,000 results |

|                |                    |                 |                 |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Falling debris | 42,100,000 results | 431,000 results | 724,000 results |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|



Search: elephant,landslide

1500 - 2019 English (2019) Case-Insensitive Smoothing



## 2. Multiple usages

While a literal definition of “landslide” is the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope, this emoji has other metaphorical symbolism.

- **Politics**
  - An overwhelming victory<sup>1</sup>
- **Emotion**
  - The fear of something falling apart/crashing down<sup>2</sup>
- **Natural Disaster**
  - When ground on slopes becomes unstable.<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Use in sequences

There is not much evidence that a “landslide” or “avalanche” image is used as a visual metaphor beyond the multiple uses listed above (politics, emotion, and natural disasters). Looking at how people use the current natural disaster emoji ( 🌊 🌪️ 🌋, etc.) indicates these types of emoji are paired alongside “warning” emoji (ex. 🌊 ⚠️) or characters that are conceptually similar (ex. 🧊 🌊). It is reasonable to expect a landslide/avalanche emoji to be used similarly







- **Emotion - Falling apart (yourself)**
  - 🗑️ 😞
  - 🗑️ 😱
  - 🗑️ 😬
  - 🗑️ 😐
- **Emotion - Reacting to the drama (someone else’s)**
  - 😞 🗑️
  - 🙈 🗑️
- **Warning - disaster**
  - 🗑️ ⚠️
  - 🏔️ 🗑️

1

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewsolender/2020/11/06/biden-on-track-for-what-trump-once-called-massive-landslide-electoral-college-victory/?sh=4d367dc3365b>


<sup>2</sup> <https://americansongwriter.com/fleetwood-mac-landslide-behind-the-song/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://disasterscharter.org/web/guest/disaster-types/-/article/landslides>

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- **Types of Avalanches**
  - Snow Avalanche 
  - Rain Avalanche 
  - Earthquake Avalanche 
  - Rock Fall Avalanche 
  - Ice Avalanche 

#### 4. Breaking new ground

Landslides and avalanches are literally breaking new ground ;)

Currently, the only emoji that represents “broken” or “cracked” is . Given the examples cited in Section 2, this emoji represents concepts that broken heart does not convey. Simply swap broken heart out for the examples cited in Section 3 and you get entirely different messages:

- **Falling apart becomes heartache**
  - 
- **Disasters become warnings against heartbreak**
  - 
  - 
  - 

#### C. Image distinctiveness


































A piece of land actively falling apart is distinctive from similar emoji at small sizes:

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- 

#### D. Completeness

There are 18 natural hazards according to FEMA. Only three are not representable by combining emoji: Avalanche/Landslide and Hail. Two of these three can be represented with the same character. An additional proposal would need to make the case for hail.

| Natural Hazard Name | Emoji |
|---------------------|-------|
|---------------------|-------|

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Avalanche</b>  | <b>None</b>  |
| Coastal Flooding  |   |
| Cold Wave         |   |
| Drought           |   |
| Earthquake        |   |
| <b>Hail</b>       | <b>None (   ?)</b>   |
| Heat Wave         |     |
| Hurricane         |   |
| Ice Storm         |     |
| <b>Landslide</b>  | <b>None</b>  |
| Lightning         |     |
| Riverine Flooding |    |
| Strong Wind       |   |
| Tornado           |   |
| Tsunami           |   |
| Volcanic Activity |   |
| Wildfire          |     |
| Winter Weather    |          |

### III. Selection factors — Exclusion

#### F. Overly specific

Are landslides and avalanches similar enough to be representable with the same image? At emoji sizes, yes. Landslides and avalanches are both rapid mass movements of soil, rock, or snow down a slope, but they differ in the type of material involved and their causes:





#### Landslides

Can involve any size of land particles, from dirt to boulders, and can be caused by water seeping through unstable material like clay. Landslides can move as quickly as avalanches, but can also move much slower.




**Avalanches** Involve a large mass of snow, ice, rock debris, and other material. Avalanches are often triggered by a mechanical failure in the snowpack, such as when the forces on the snow exceed its strength. They can also be caused by other natural factors, such as increased snowfall, erosion, melting snow, rain, earthquakes, rockfall, and icefall.

## G. Open-ended

There are five primary types of weather:











-  Sunny
-  Rainy
-  Windy
-  Stormy
-  Cloudy

Weather around the world falls into three basic categories: precipitation, obscurations, and "other" phenomena<sup>4</sup> which include:

-  Precipitation: Rain, Drizzle, Sleet, Hail, Graupel, Snow, Snow Grains, Ice Crystals
-  Obscuration: Mist, Fog, Smoke, Volcanic Ash, Dust, Sand, Haze
-  Other: Tornado, funnel cloud, waterspout, squall, sand storm, dust storm

Wikipedia's<sup>5</sup> list of severe weather phenomena is another list to consider but lacks citation and is not as authoritative as FEMA's provided in *Section 2*.

Nonetheless, for the sake of completeness it is included here:

- Atmospheric: 
- Electrical Storms: 
- Fire 
- Flood: 
- Oceans and Bodies of water: 
- Snow: 
- Ice: 
- Rain: 
- **Surface Movement: FALLING-DEBRIS EMOJI**
- Temperature: 
- Wind: 
- Other (includes hayfever, zud, and heat lightning)

Turns out, there are many ways to classify weather. So why use FEMA's list?

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.noaa.gov/jetstream/synoptic/types-of-weather-phenomena>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_severe\\_weather\\_phenomena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_severe_weather_phenomena)

Search for: [What are the 4 types of weather?](#)

What are 8 forms of extreme weather? 

What are the 6 basic weather? 

What are the 5 weather patterns? 

What are the 7 elements of weather? 

What are the five main types of climate? 


[Feedback](#)

Having a stable, well-defined list will be important so that the addition of a “falling-debris” emoji doesn’t result in more weather-related proposals.

FEMA’s list is well suited for the purposes of inclusion into the Unicode Standard as it is a closed-set of “disaster related hazards”. As FEMA explains, “natural hazards are defined as environmental phenomena that have the potential to impact societies and the human environment.”<sup>6</sup> So, while there are many secondary natural hazard events that can create additional hazards, these primary natural hazards provide a reasonable, fixed set of similar items that happen globally. The National Risk Index only considers main natural hazard events and not their results or after-effects.<sup>7</sup> By defining this list by the weather itself and not what is caused by severe weather the list is closed, well-defined and not open-ended.



#### **H. Already representable**

Only if you consider “” representative of a landslide.

#### **I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities**

There are no logos, brands, people or deities in this proposal.

#### **J. Transient**

Debris has been falling since before mankind ;-)

#### **K. Faulty comparison**

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.

#### **L. Exact Images**

An exact image is not required.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/natural-hazards>

<sup>7</sup> For example, Volcanic Activity can create other hazards, such as ash and lava spread.