Eyes Looking Right Emoji Proposal

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I. Identification

Sample Image	Proposed Unicode and CLDR name	Possible CLDR English keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
👀	Eyes Looking Right	Eyes, Eye, Look, See, Watching, glance	👀

II. Images

72px: 👀 18px: 👀

License

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

III. Sort location

body-parts

💪 🦾 🦿 🦵 🦶 👂 🦻 👃 🧠 🫀 🫁 🦷 🦴 👀 👁 👅 👄 🫦

II. Selection factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility

n/a

B. Expected use

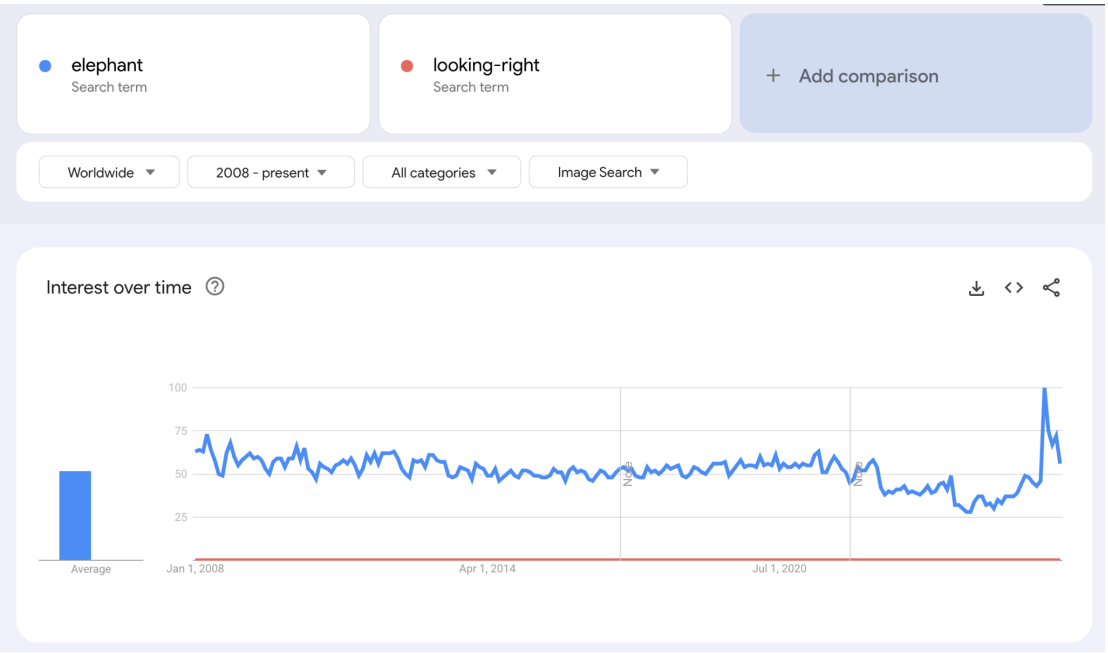
1. Frequency

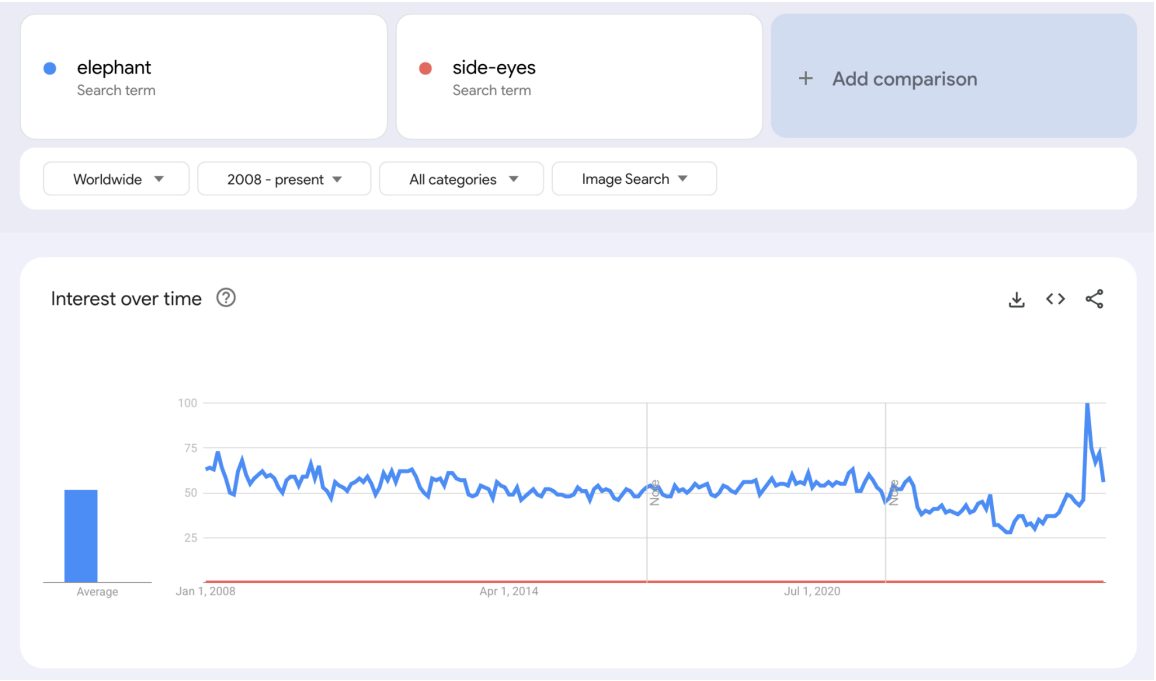
The concept of side-eye, looking around, and shifty glances is immensely popular on digital platforms. Currently, 👀 (U+1F440) is among the most frequently used body/face emojis globally. Adding a mirrored/rightward variant expands its utility significantly for directional and conversational context.

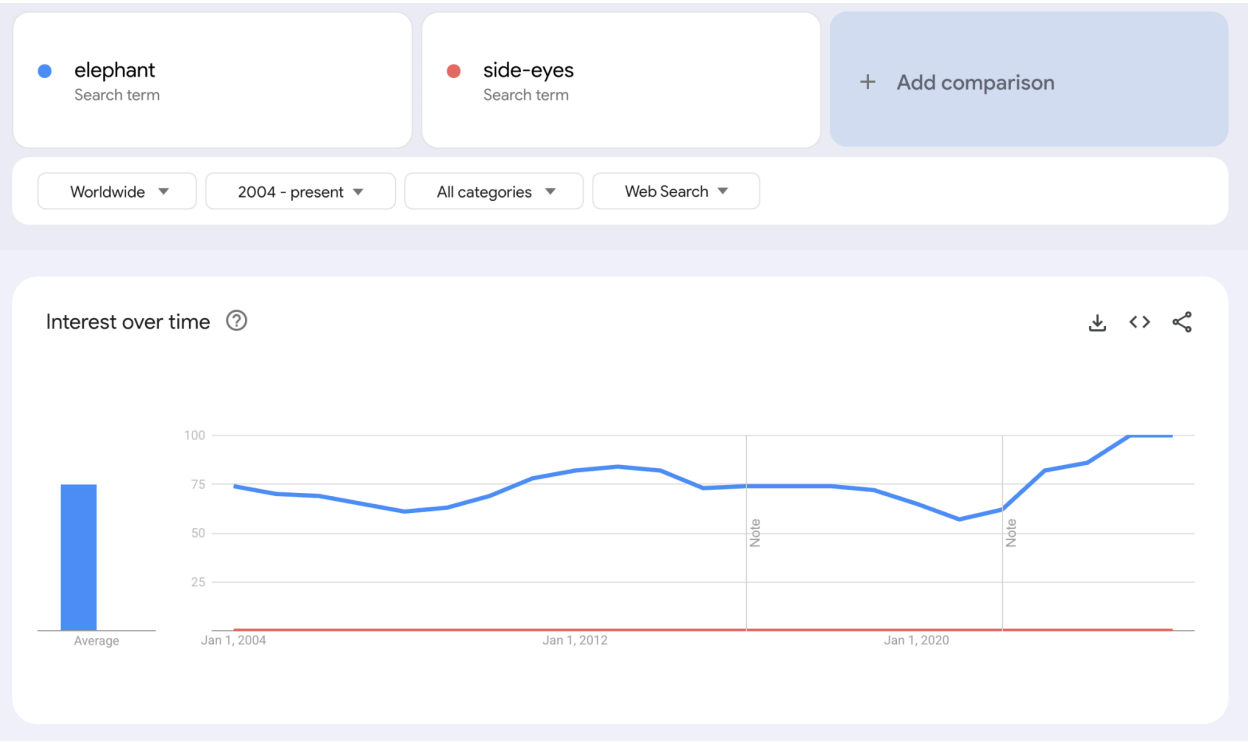
Data suggest that this emoji will perform well over median given that the stats are nearly 3x larger than elephant.

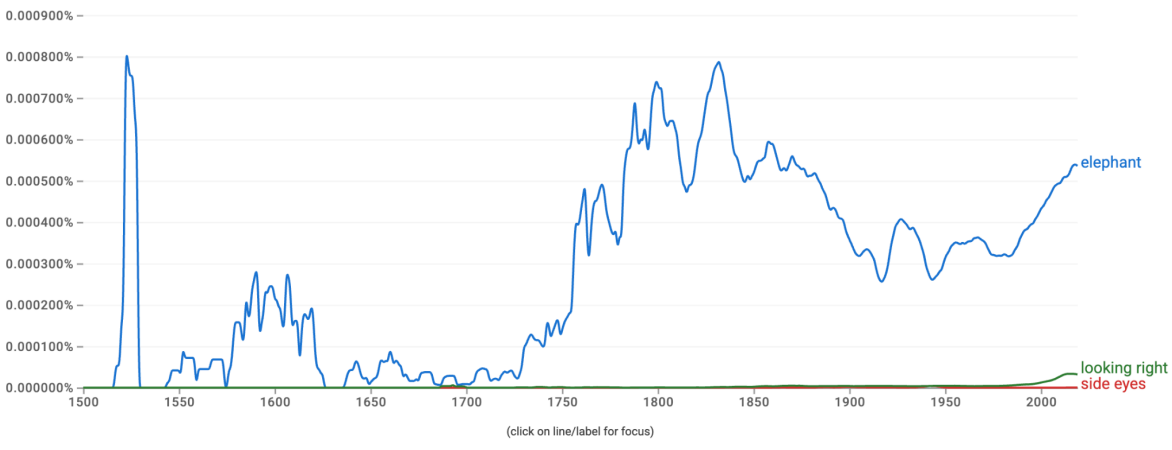
.

Search term	Google Search	Google Video Search	Google Books
side-eye	2,230,000,000	226,000,000	*See chart below*
looking-right	7,930,000,000	1,170,000,000	*See chart below*
elephant	816,000,000	106,000,000	*See chart below*




elephant
Search term
side-eyes
Search term
Add comparison
Worldwide
2008 - present
All categories
Image Search
Interest over time
100
75
50
25
Note
Note
Average
Jan 1, 2008
Apr 1, 2014
Jul 1, 2020


elephant
Search term
side-eyes
Search term
Add comparison
Worldwide
2004 - present
All categories
Web Search
Interest over time
100
75
50
25
Note
Note
Average
Jan 1, 2004
Jan 1, 2012
Jan 1, 2020


0.000900%
0.000800%
0.000700%
0.000600%
0.000500%
0.000400%
0.000300%
0.000200%
0.000100%
0.000000%
1500
1550
1600
1650
1700
1750
1800
1850
1900
1950
2000
elephant
looking right
side eyes
(click on line/label for focus)

2. Multiple usages

"Eyes Looking Right" serves several distinct pragmatic functions in digital communication:

1. **Directional Attention & Contextual Pointing**
   In standard left-to-right (LTR) languages, visual flow moves from left to right. When we share links, quotes, attachments, or multi-line posts, standard 👀 faces *backward* toward text already read. Eyes Looking Right acts as a forward-facing visual signpost that naturally directs the reader's gaze toward upcoming media, pinned posts, or text placed to the right.

   Examples

   - "Look at this"
   - "Check out the next line"
   - "Read what follows."

2. **The "Side-Eye" & Subtle Suspicious**
   A side-eye glance is highly directional depending on who or what is being judged in a thread. Having a rightward variant allows users to direct their side-eye specifically toward an avatar, quote-tweet, or comment situated on the right side of an interface layout.

   Examples

   - Disbelief
   - Judgment
   - Skepticism

3. **Avoidance, Guilt, & "Looking Away"**
   Turning one's eyes to the right is a widely recognized body language cue for avoiding direct eye contact or feeling caught red-handed. While 👀 (left) conveys active, wide-eyed observation ("I'm watching!"), Eyes Looking Right conveys passive evasion ("I'm looking away...").

   Examples

   - "I didn't see anything"
   - Awkwardness
   - Reluctance
   - Hiding guilt

4. **Anticipation & Looking Forward**
   Across timelines and progress bars, movement to the right visually symbolizes progress and the future. Facing right connotes looking

forward to what is coming next (e.g., waiting for a drop, an announcement, or an upcoming event).

Examples

- Looking ahead to the future
- Waiting for an update
- Tracking upcoming events.

5. Peripheral Awareness / Listening In

Conveys passive spectating like listening to a group chat or observing public discourse without directly participating. It captures the subtle physical posture of keeping your head straight while sliding your eyes to the side to listen in.

Examples

- Eavesdropping
- Monitoring a situation from the side
- "lurking."

3. Use in sequences

Combining Eyes Looking Right with existing emojis unlocks expressive visual combinations that the eyes facing right alone doesn't convey.

- 👀👀👀

  Back-and-Forth Scanning / Suspicion
  Paired with 👀 to create a back-and-forth movement (👀 + *Eyes Looking Right*), mimicking shifting eyes, nervous watching, or following a fast back-and-forth conversation/argument.

- 👀😳👀

  Avoidance / Looking Away
  Indicates avoiding eye contact to the right, feeling awkward, or subtly acknowledging something without confronting it directly.

- 👀📝

  Directing attention to the right

4. Breaking new ground

While directional indicators exist for hands (👈, 👉, 👆, 👇), the facial/body expression set lacks directional flexibility for eye gaze. Standard 👀 faces strictly left across almost all implementations. Introducing Eyes Looking Right establishes directional parity for gaze direction, enabling users to create dynamic, two-way visual narrative sequences in text.

C. Image distinctiveness

The proposed emoji is visually distinct from U+1F440 (👀) because the pupils and eye shape are mirrored to point toward the right. It is instantly recognizable at emoji sizes (18×18 px) while maintaining complete visual harmony with the existing 👀 design across major vendor styles.

D. Completeness

This proposal completes a directional pair with 👀 providing left and right gaze options analogous to left/right pointing finger emojis (👈 and 👉).

III. Selection factors — Exclusion

F. Overly specific

The proposed emoji is not overly specific. "Looking to the right" or "shifty eye glance" is a broad visual morpheme used across diverse contexts—ranging from humor and suspicion to functional UI direction and storytelling.

G. Open-ended

Encoding *Eyes Looking Right* completes a natural, closed horizontal pair and does not open a floodgate for endless directional variations:

1. **Fulfilling Horizontal Directional Parity:**
   While vertical gaze directions are already visually distinct and well-represented in the Unicode Standard via existing expressions (e.g., 🙄 *Face with Rolling Eyes* for looking up/disbelief, 😔 *Pensive Face* for looking down), the standalone eye motif (U+1F440 👀) remains strictly left-facing across almost all vendor implementations. Adding *Eyes Looking Right* provides the missing horizontal counterpart, completing a balanced binary pair (Left / Right) in the exact same manner as pointing hand emojis (👈 / 👉).

2. **Horizontal vs. Vertical Expressive Utility:**
   Vertical gaze shifts carry distinct emotional meanings (eye-rolling, embarrassment, sadness) that are naturally tied to full facial expressions. In contrast, lateral eye movement (looking left vs. right) is unique because it carries directional and sequential utility. This includes but is not limited to pointing creating back-and-forth scanning sequences or framing side-eye toward specific elements in a multi-line post.

H. Already representable

While existing characters carry related directional or ocular elements, none can represent the specific pragmatic, spatial, and expressive utility of Eyes Looking Right. I will first interrogate why the Pointing Hand Right (👉) doesn't already represent this concept then touch on a few other emoji that are adjacent.

Pointing Hands (Index Finger 👉 U+1F449)

- **Command vs. Observation (Pragmatic Intent):** Pointing hand emojis act as literal, mechanical signposts ("go that way," "click here"). They convey physical

direction, but carry zero observational or emotional subtext. In contrast, *Eyes Looking Right* communicates *attitudinal observation* ("I'm watching this unfold" or "did you see that side-eye?"). Replacing an eye gaze with a hand gesture strips the communication of its non-verbal expressive context.

Physical Orientation vs. Attentional Focus

- Human interaction routinely distinguishes between where a body points and where a gaze is directed (e.g., walking forward while glancing rightward in suspicion). Hands establish mechanical orientation; eyes establish focus and reaction. Limiting directional cues strictly to hands forces users to use action-oriented pointers when they actually need to express a directional gaze.
- Research also showing that human gaze processing is a distinct cognitive module separate from mechanical pointing.[1]

Face with Rolling Eyes (🙄 U+1F644)

- **Wrong Axis & Tone:** 🙄 conveys annoyance, exasperation, or dismissal directed *upward*. It cannot direct a reader's attention horizontally across text or media.
- **Semantic Mismatch:** 🙄 implies active disdain or eye-rolling, whereas Eyes Looking Right conveys lateral monitoring, curiosity, spatial awareness, or subtle avoidance without inherently signaling annoyance.

Left-Facing Eyes (👀 U+1F440)

- **Directional Limitation:** While 👀 is the direct counterpart, it strictly faces left on virtually all major vendor implementations (Apple, Google, Microsoft, Samsung, WhatsApp). Using 👀 to refer to content, text, or avatars positioned to its right creates a jarring visual contradiction (looking backward at the content it is meant to highlight).

Emoji Combinations (👀+👉, 👀+➡️)

- When we pair the existing left-facing eyes with a rightward arrow or finger, it creates a direct visual conflict: the eyes face left while the adjacent emoji points right. Rather than creating a single unified meaning of "looking right," the sequence reads as two opposing vectors, creating cognitive friction for the reader.[2]

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

There are no logos, brands, signage or otherwise among the proposed characters.

J. Transient

Eye movement, side-eye, and directional glances are universal human non-verbal cues documented across cultures, theater, and art throughout history.

K. Faulty comparison

[1] Friesen, C. K., & Kingstone, A. (1998).
[2] Hommel, B., Pratt, J., Van der Burg, E., & Notebaert, W. (2001).

This proposal stands on its own merits under Unicode inclusion criteria (completeness, directional parity, and high expected frequency) and does not rely on analogy to legacy compatibility characters.

L. Exact Images

The proposal does not require a specific single artwork; vendors are free to render the eyes in their standard platform style mirrored horizontally.