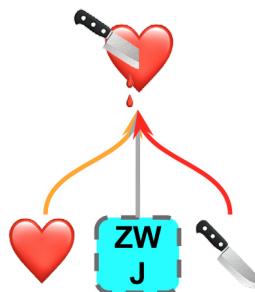




## Proposal for New Valid Emoji Sequence

To: Unicode Consortium  
 From: Ivana Jovic (info@ivanajovic.com)  
 Submitted: 2017-06-28

CLDR short name: Heart with Knife  
 CLDR keywords: heartache | bleeding heart | love hurts | stabbed heart  
 Code Points: ZWJ Sequence of U+2764 Red Heart and U+1F52A Kitchen Knife  
 (alternatively: U+1F5E1 Dagger)



### Abstract

I hereby request the addition of the Heart with Knife emoji to the Unicode Standard. The heart symbolizes love and a person's inner-most desire, while the knife can symbolize death, destruction, and betrayal. Put these two images together and you have the ultimate symbol of heartache, betrayal, jealousy, hurt and pain.<sup>1</sup>

### Introduction

While all facets of love—from first butterflies in the stomach to the bitter end of a romance—are represented greatly in high, sub and pop culture, our current heart emojis mostly represent positive feelings. But love hurts and we need an emoji to express that. The most accurate translation of this metaphorical symbol would be “right in the feels”.

## Factors of Inclusion

Compatibility N/A

## Expected usage level

—Frequency

Emojis containing a heart are used very often. On emojitracker.com the second, third and fourth most used emojis (2017-06-14, 12:00) are Red Heart, Smiling Face With Heart-Eyes and Heart Suit. On iemoji.com (2017-06-20, 12:30) 12 emojis containing a heart are amongst the top hundred most popular emoji. At the moment there are a total of 2623 emojis, 25 of them contain a heart of sorts. The only two of those which can be used to express a more dire feeling are the Broken Heart and the Black Heart, representing morbidity or sorrow.

| emojitracker: realtime emoji use on twitter |              |             |              |             |              |             |              |     |     |     |     |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 😂 1725097884                                | ❤️ 792136998 | 👑 651227987 | ❤️ 645543648 | 😭 491465199 | 😊 468042214  | 🤔 433373657 | ❤️ 369386380 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 👉 366441735                                 | ♻️ 339581709 | 😢 333827053 | 😊 326344361  | 🔥 305421057 | 😊 276811788  | 🤔 268208703 | 😊 260215338  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 😊 200140982                                 | ✉️ 187998091 | 👍 178442311 | 😊 174075122  | 🙏 169336785 | ♫ 163466988  | 😊 158695367 | 😊 153091808  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 😊 152807013                                 | 👀 152022802  | 😊 151023315 | 👏 147874101  | 👤 143837632 | ❤️ 143564726 | 🔥 140573914 | 💡 134631322  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ❤️ 131466020                                | 💜 131217226  | 💔 129670181 | 😴 126870373  | 😊 125971506 | ❤️ 125323484 | 😊 123963921 | 😊 113750722  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 😊 111713611                                 | 😊 111198518  | 😊 107923022 | 😊 104207182  | 😊 102752116 | 😊 99240535   | 👉 99086387  | ❤️ 97676025  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ❤️ 97355128                                 | ❤️ 94997740  | 🔥 93504519  | 👉 84756111   | 👉 84456212  | 👤 84194217   | 🌸 82647131  | ✉️ 82264322  | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 👑 81699922                                  | 👉 81589863   | 👾 76833266  | 🌹 75088344   | 😊 74923985  | 🎉 71765429   | 😊 69903120  | 💀 69671721   | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 💔 67755620                                  | 💪 66552302   | ❤️ 66480019 | 💻 65693220   | 😊 65618297  | 😊 65618238   | 😊 63303488  | 🌐 62714766   | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 😊 61268328                                  | 😊 61086637   | ☀️ 59436164 | 😊 57836666   | ✓ 57239278  | 👉 56958180   | ❤️ 55937833 | ❤️ 55911835  | --- | --- | --- | --- |

Fig 1: 16 of the 78 most used emojis tracked on twitter contain a heart. The only one expressing a bad emotion is the broken heart emoji.

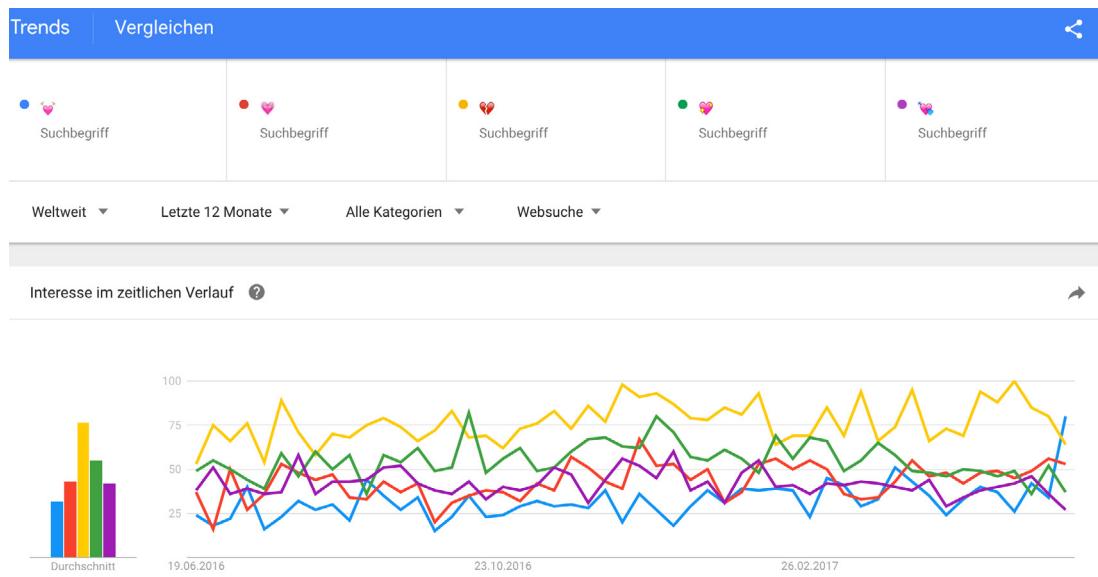


Fig 2: Heart emojis with metaphoric value (beating heart, growing heart, broken heart, sparkling heart, heart with arrow), lead by the negative expression of a broken heart.

## —Multiple usages

The knife always implies something that is dangerous and can cut—hurt, cause harm, while the heart is always something tied to emotions and fragility. It is a traditional tattoo symbol, which is often personalized f.e. with the position of the knife or with script on a white scroll. In religious symbolism, the knife or dagger through the heart is considered as a variation of the Catholic Immaculate Heart of Mary, who is regarded by some as the Lady of Sorrows.<sup>2</sup> This emoji will be useable in a number of contexts—not only love—to metaphorically express a bad feeling or a hurtful situation.



Fig 3: Heart with Dagger Tattoo



Fig 4: Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Image distinctiveness

A Heart with Knife emoji is a strong symbol, which is known or at least easily decodable in places all over the world. The symbolic value is why it would be visually distinct from any current heart emojis. At the moment there is no red heart emoji that contains additional elements, in comparison to the pink heart emojis: sparkling heart, heart with arrow and heart with ribbon.

It is closest to the Broken Heart emoji, but there's a distinct difference between the two metaphors. A broken heart is used in reference to a state of extreme grief or sorrow, typically caused by the death of a loved one or the ending of a romantic relationship.<sup>3</sup> A stab in the heart is a more temporary feeling, which causes the heart to bleed, but it is quite possible, that it will heal again.

## Completeness

The Heart with Knife emoji would help fill out the set of “emotion” emojis, adding a negative expression to the mostly positive metaphors conveyed by this set.

## Factors of Exclusion

### Overly specific

N/A because the Heart with Knife emoji is a broad symbol for heartache, hurt and pain and can be used in various situations.

### Open-ended

Even though the Heart with Knife emoji would be adding to a group of quite a few heart emojis, it would add to the only two negative expressions.

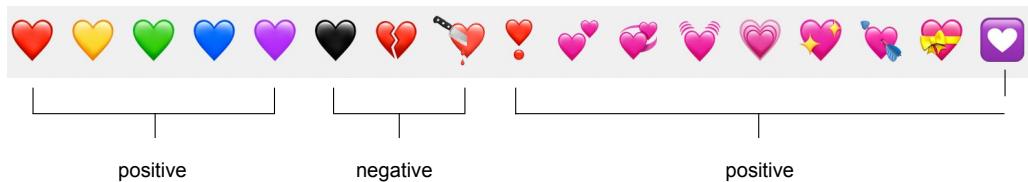


Fig 5: How the Heart with Knife emoji would fit into our keyboards

### Transient

Heartache is as old as mankind and sadly it's not likely to ever disappear.

### Sort location

The emoji should be added to the emotions block near other heart emojis. In collation order, it should be sorted near the broken heart emoji.

|      |   |                  |
|------|---|------------------|
| 1446 | <a href="#">U+2764</a>  | red heart        |
| 1447 | <a href="#">U+1F493</a>   | beating heart    |
| 1448 | <a href="#">U+1F494</a>   | broken heart     |
| 1449 | <a href="#">U+2764</a><br><a href="#">U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F52A</a> | heart with knife |
| 1450 | <a href="#">U+1F495</a>   | two hearts       |

Fig 6: How the Heart with Knife emoji would fit into our keyboards

## Author Bio

Ivana Jovic is a swiss graphic designer studying in a multidisciplinary design mastercourse in Basel, Switzerland. The Heart with Knife emoji is part of her Heartsinksseries <http://ivanajott.tumblr.com/heartsinksseries>

## Sources

Image: The sample image is created by combinig the existing Apple emojis for Red Heart, Kitchen Knife and Syringe (drops of blood).

- Fig 1 Screenshot of emojitracker.com from 2017-06-14, 12:00
  - Fig 2 Screenshot of Google Trends comparison 2017-06-14, 16:50 comparing the last 12 monhts
  - Fig 3 <https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTipumB4RVJPNIKHVhKgOR9PSRnPUEh6rG-X0urlut57A6eLAUTIQ>
  - Fig 4 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/e5/ca/6c/e5ca6c6ac06b467dda7c8ee418427d90.jpg>
  - Fig 5 Apple heart emojis with the addition of the Heart with Knife emoji
  - Fig 6 Screenshot of a part of <http://unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html> with the addition of the Heart with Knife emoji
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- 1 <http://www.itattoodesigns.com/tattoo-meanings/dagger.php>
  - 2 <https://www.tattoodo.com/a/2015/05/the-classic-heart-dagger-tattoo/>
  - 3 [https://www.google.ch/search?q=broken+heart+meaning&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gfe\\_rd=cr&ei=pl5BWa6LGurl8gelq4ioAQ#safe=off&q=broken+heart+meaning](https://www.google.ch/search?q=broken+heart+meaning&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gfe_rd=cr&ei=pl5BWa6LGurl8gelq4ioAQ#safe=off&q=broken+heart+meaning)