

Proposal for Emoji: COOKING POT

Submitted by Samantha Sunne of Emojination

Date: January 2019

Reference emoji: Tumbler glass



Credit: Aphelandra Messer/Emojination. Free for use in context of this proposal.

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of the COOKING POT emoji to the Unicode emoji library. A cooking pot is one of the most universal appliances for one of the only activities shared by everyone on the planet: eating. While the current Unicode emoji library includes an image of an egg frying in a pan (🍳) and an ambiguous food in a shallow pot (🍲), the inclusion of food may distract or confuse the recipient of a message containing those emoji. Adding a COOKING POT, free of any distraction like a food inside it, would provide a unique method to convey the action of cooking itself. The COOKING POT is not used only for cooking. It is a symbol of protest in Latin America.

Introduction

Cooking pots, in their current form, have been used to cook food for hundreds of years.¹ The handle-less predecessor to the COOKING POT was integral to the formation of

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cookware_and_bakeware

human societies for thousands of years, but the advent of the metalware cooking pot with a handle, in the early 18th Century, was a turning point for home cooking.² Besides being timeless, it has remained one of the most widely used utensils, being used to prepare some of the most common foods in the world like rice, beans, pasta, and meat.

The act of cooking is one that is frequently shared over digital communications like social media and text. It is a hobby, a profession, and a skill. Friends and family alike will always utter the question, "What's for dinner?"

In addition, the cooking pot is a powerful symbol of protest in Latin America and Spain, where it was a fixture of the Catalanian independence movement last year.

Names (Suggested short name and keywords, as in the [Emoji List](#)).

- CLDR short name: COOKING POT
- CLDR keywords: COOKING | POT | COOK | BOIL | SAUCEPAN | STEW POT

Sort Location

Proposed sort location for the emoji in [Emoji Ordering](#)

- Category: dishware
- Emoji before it in that category: 🍴 fork and knife

Reference Emoji

We use "TUMBLER" as the reference emoji below, under "Frequency."

Selection Factors Inclusion

Compatibility

Currently, no COOKING POT emoji exists in any platform, with the exception of the frying egg emoji (🍳). However, this emoji represents a distinct food and a frying pan,

²<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2013/04/10/176762387/earliest-cookware-was-used-to-make-fish-so-up>

which is a different instrument altogether. Some of the most common foods on this planet, such as rice, are cooked in something akin to a stove pot.

Expected Usage Level

- Frequency

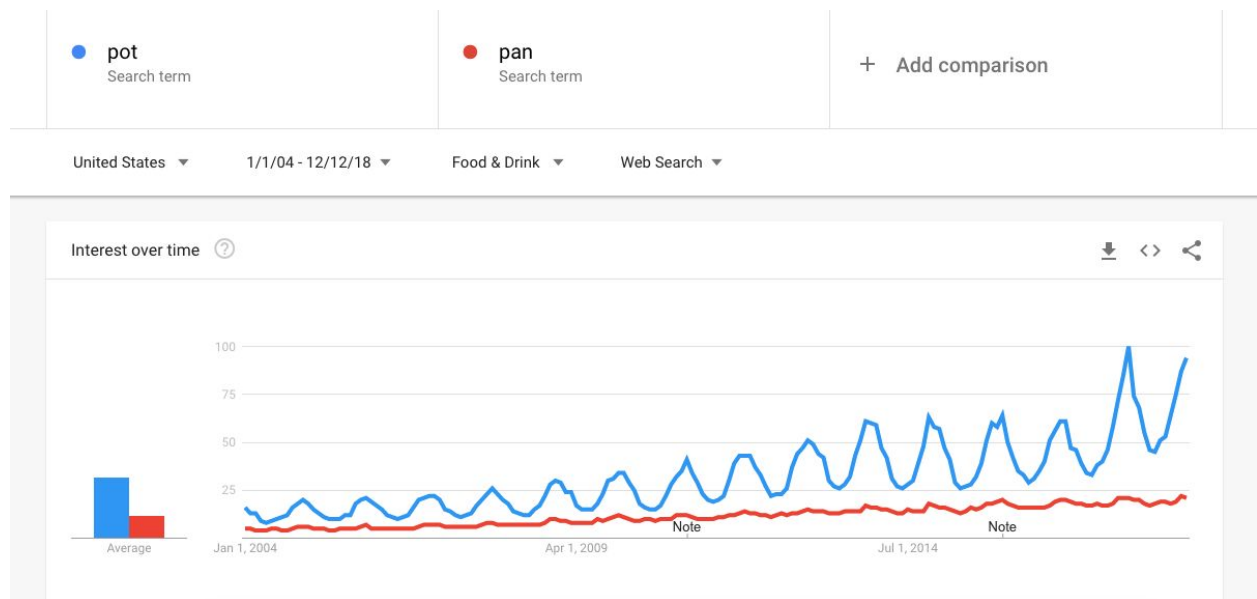
Google Trends data indicates that the most common related topics and queries for the word "pot" are almost all related to food and cooking. Thus, when a Google search includes the word "pot" it most often refers to cooking and not to a potted plant, marijuana, or another use of the word.

Related topics ?	Rising ▼	↓	<>	↔
1 Ketogenic diet - Topic	+350%			
2 Boiled egg - Egg	+120%			
3 Brown rice - Grains	+70%			
4 Freezing - Topic	+60%			
5 Lentil - Legume	+50%			
< Showing 1-5 of 6 topics >				

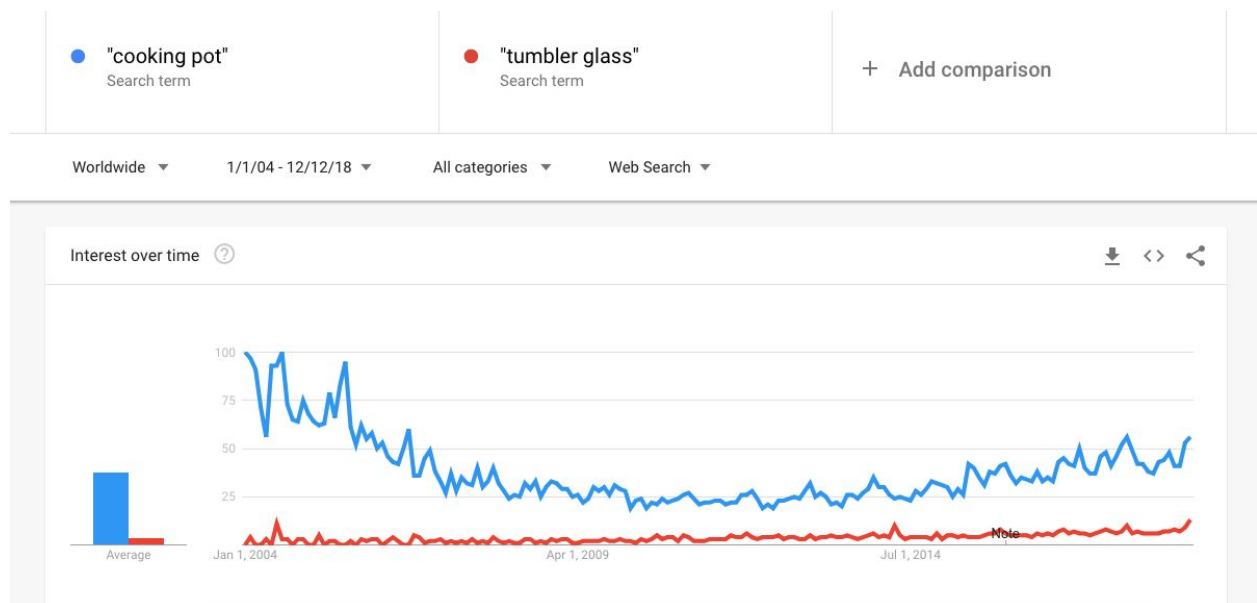
Related queries ?	Rising ▼	↓	<>	↔
1 instant pot recall	+2,650%			
2 instant pot recall 2018	+1,550%			
3 groot flower pot	+1,350%			
4 crock pot this is us	+800%			
5 healthy instant pot recipes	+350%			
< Showing 1-5 of 25 queries >				

A Trends timeline also indicates that searches for the word "pot" have consistently outpaced searches for the word "pan" in the United States since 2004. "Pot" has only gotten more popular over the past few years, much more so than "pan." ts precedence is only becoming wider. Yet there is a pan emoji and no pot.

Non-food and drink related searches are excluded from this analysis for accuracy.



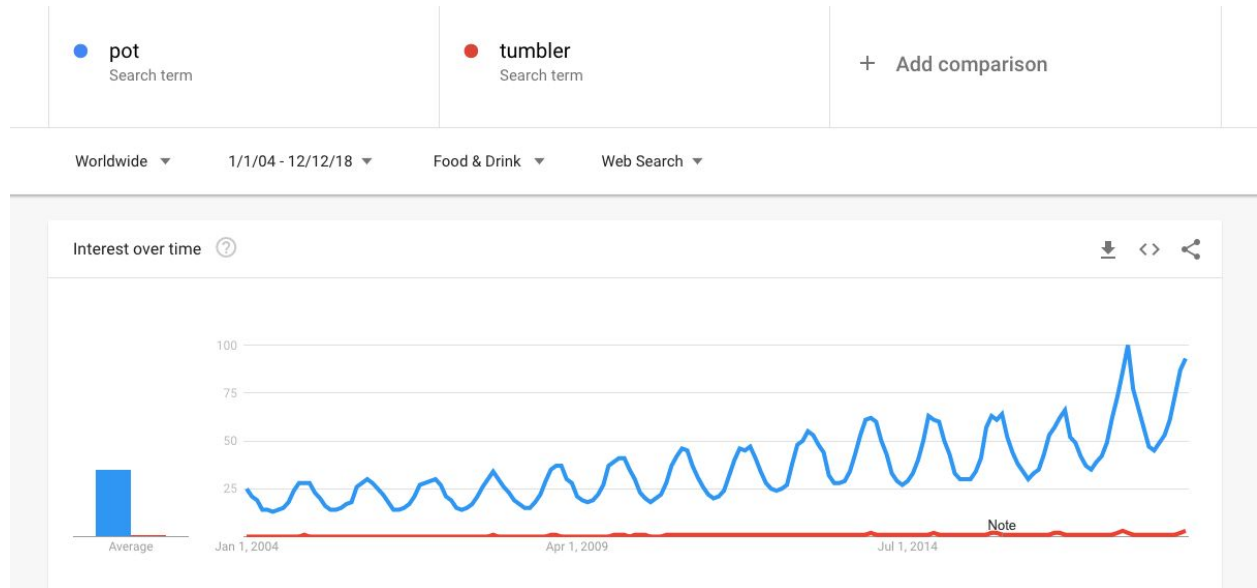
"Cooking pot" also consistently outranks Google searches for "tumbler glass", which is an emoji of median usage.



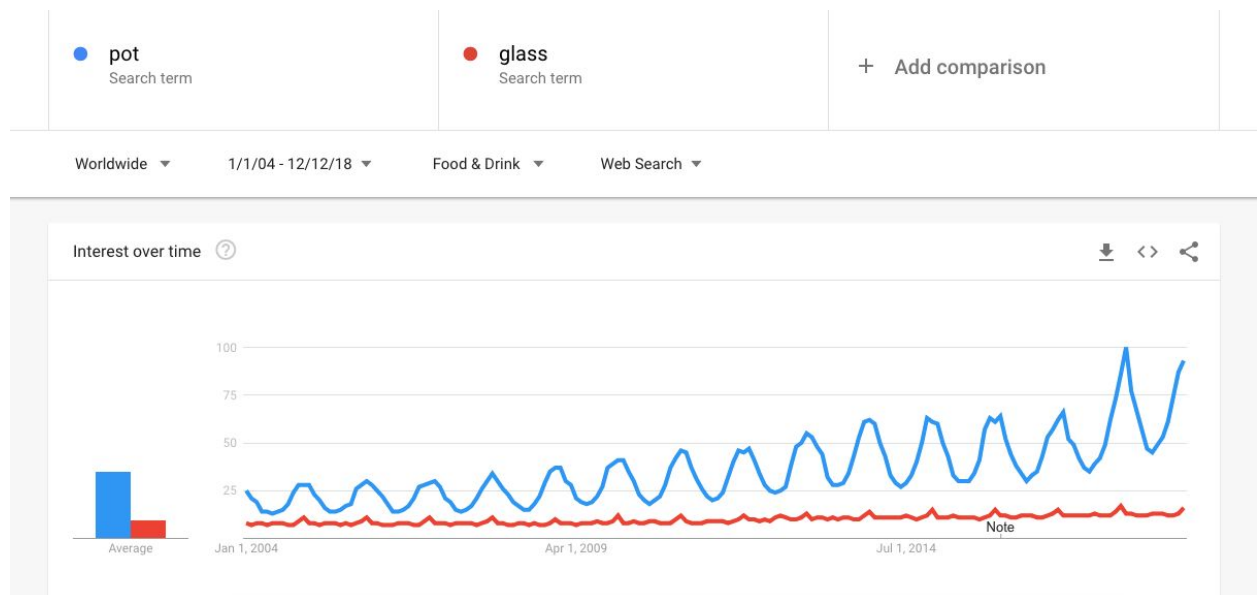
The same is also true for the words "pot" and "tumbler" in Google searches. Searches for non-food and drink related uses of the word are excluded here for accuracy.

Food-related searches for "pot" regularly peak at the end of the year, most likely due to users using and shopping for cookings pots during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays.

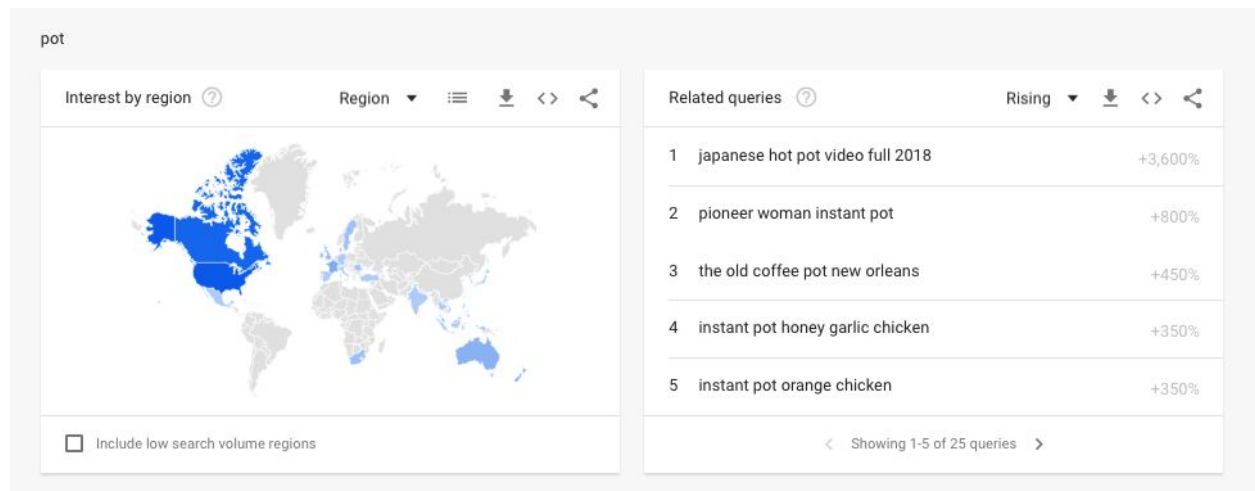
Google Trends: Web Search



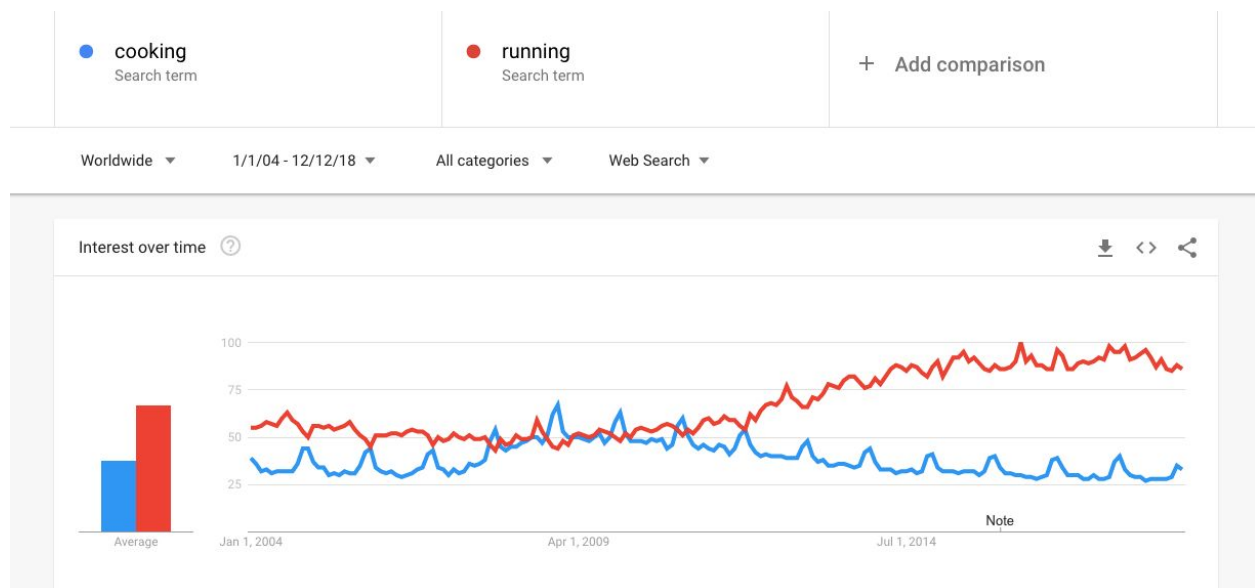
You can see that "pot" even outperforms "glass", which is a much more widely-used food and drink term than "tumbler."



Related queries for the term "pot" show that Google users are indeed searching for the cooking-related pot, and not other meanings of the word.

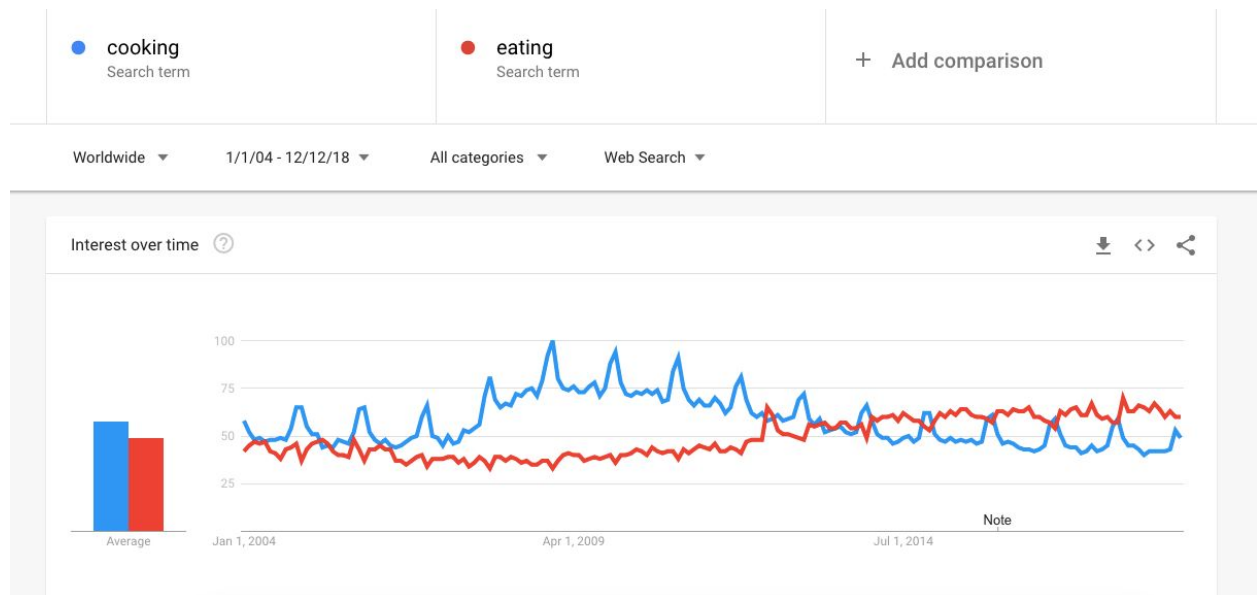


As for the verb "cooking", you can see that it lands within throwing distance of the word "running," another popular hobby, in Google searches. There are noticeable spikes every year around the times of Thanksgiving and Christmas, which would suggest heightened demand for a cooking emoji around those holidays.



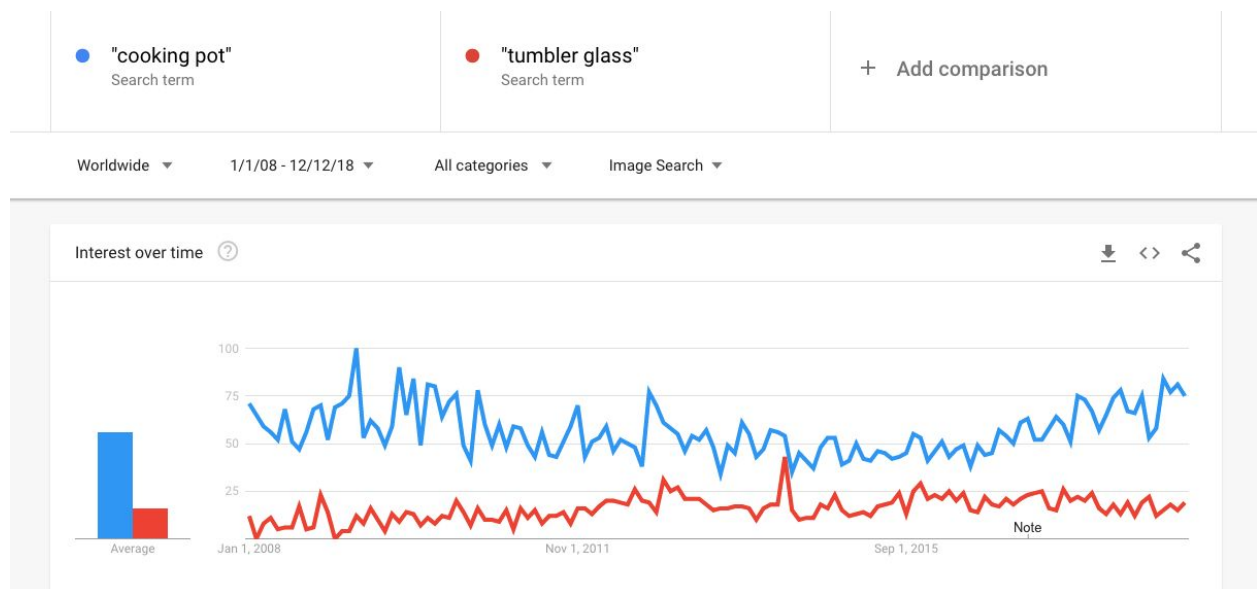
These spikes are also found in a comparison of the verb "cooking" and its counterpart, "eating." While "eating" maintains a steady presence in Google searches worldwide,

"cooking" consistently spikes to outperform or equal "eating" in popularity, year after year.



Google Trends: Image Search

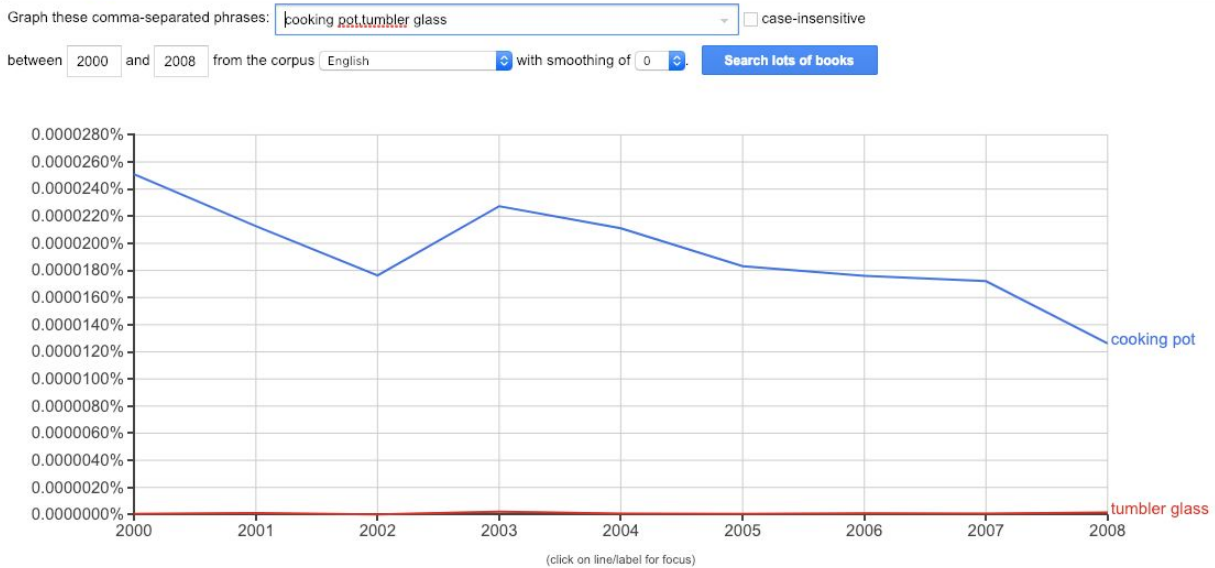
The same findings are true for comparisons of Google Images searches for "cooking pot" and "tumbler glass", the median emoji.



NGram Viewer (optional)

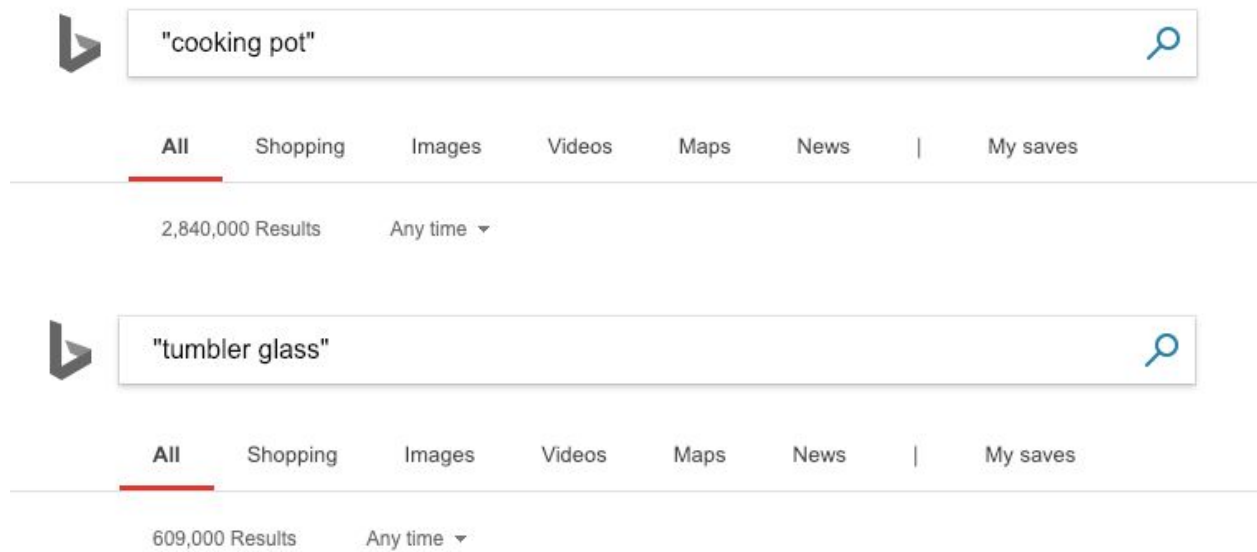
The Google Ngram Viewer shows that the term "cooking pot" appeared far more often than "tumbler glass", the median emoji, in Google Books from 2000 to 2008.

Google Books Ngram Viewer



Bing Search

Bing returns more than five times as many web results for "cooking pot" as it does for "tumbler glass", a median emoji.



Cooking is also a very popular activity to share on social media. Instagram and YouTube posts with the hashtag #cooking either ties with or outnumbers those with hashtags #running or #eating on many platforms.

Platform	Hashtag	Number of Posts	Source
Instagram	#cooking	27,896,390	https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/cooking/
Instagram	#running	49,909,494	https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/running/
Instagram	#eating	18,870,320	https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/eating
YouTube	#cooking	40,800	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Ayoutube.com+%22%23cooking%22
YouTube	#running	9,530	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Ayoutube.com+%22%23running%22
YouTube	#eating	11,100	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Ayoutube.com+%22%23eating%22
Pinterest	#cooking	1,410,000	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Apinterest.com+%22%23cooking%22
Pinterest	#running	1,610,000	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Apinterest.com+%22%23running%22
Pinterest	#eating	227,000	https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Apinterest.com+%22%23eating%22

• Multiple Usages

A COOKING POT is such a universal tool that it is found in many idioms and sayings around the world. A few examples:

- "stirring the pot" is a phrase that means agitating other people
- "a melting pot" is a metaphor for a community that brings many diverse people together
- "pot calling the kettle black" to call out hypocrisy
- "a watched pot never boils" is an aphorism that reminds us of the futility of staring at a process hoping it will happen faster

We believe that this emoji would be popular among emoji users as a fun alternative way to express these sentiments, as indicated by these Tweets from the last few months:

"They need a “stirring the pot” emoji since that’s what most people do anyways.”³

"There's need to be a stirring the pot emoji"⁴

"Twitter really does need a pot or kettle emoji"⁵

A cooking pot is also a symbol of dissent in Latin American countries, where protestors commonly bang on pots and pans to make noise. This practice is known as *cacerolazo* or *cacerolada*, from the Spanish word for stew pot, "*cacero/a*" and it's also a growing trend in Spain, where it was common during the Catalan independence movement last year.⁶

³ https://twitter.com/RealSlim_Shadie/status/1069089671928516609

⁴ https://twitter.com/fajita_nita/status/1069373444280717312

⁵ <https://twitter.com/PrivatizeEdu/status/1060935824865402880>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/magazine/letter-of-recommendation-caceroladas.html>



This [photo from Caracol](#), a Colombian radio station, shows a cacerolazo protest in Cúcuta, Colombia, in June 2018.



This [image from Getty Images](#) shows a cacerolada by Catalan pro-independence demonstrators in Barcelona, Spain, in February 2018.



This [video by La Nacion](#), an Argentinian newspaper, shows a cacerolazo protest in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2016.

Protests are increasingly being organized on social media, where they can drum up support, draw media attention and assemble.⁷ A protest emoji in Latin American countries, therefore, would be extremely popular. Social media posts, such as the tweets below, would be very likely to incorporate a cooking pot emoji when promoting cacerolazo demonstrations.

The cacerolazo has also turned up beyond Latin America. Over the last decade protesters have turned out banging saucepans in Montreal, Iceland and Turkey⁸, too.

⁷ <http://predictiontechnology.ucla.edu/the-role-of-social-media-in-political-protests/>

⁸ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cacerolazo>



One Twitter user in Barcelona promoted a cacerolazo using the bicep and ballot emojis, and would likely have included a cooking pot emoji had one been available:

"#cacerolada #casserolada time 💪🗳️"⁹

One in Argentina tweeted that they would prefer a cacerolazo emoji to that of mate, a very popular drink in Argentina and one of the most requested emoji in 2018, according to Emojipedia.¹⁰

"Para mí tendríamos que crear el emoji del cacerolazo antes que el del mate. #Lebacs"¹¹

Other users tweeted their dissatisfaction with the egg in a frying pan emoji as a representation of cacerolazo.

"🔍 el emoji mas usado el día de hoy, 2 diciembre 2017 #Cacerolazo"¹²

⁹ <https://twitter.com/eyeclipse/status/910958986031190016>

¹⁰ <https://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2018/>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/LucianoMartin8/status/996408286860730368>

¹² <https://twitter.com/thelusalad/status/937176802568613888>

"El gobierno tendría firmado un DNU para quitar el emoji 🍲 por incitar al cacerolazo. @revistabarcelon @ingridbeck @negropolis_899 @aleberco @ag_mozz"¹³

Other users tweeted that they would like a cacerolazo emoji in general.

"Catalonia needs a "cacerolada" emoji now!! #FreeCatalonia #LlibertatPresosPolitics"¹⁴

"Yo no paro hasta tener el emoji ese, cacerolazo en UNICODE y fue."¹⁵

"tenemos que hacer un cacerolazo para que nos pongan el emoji 😡"¹⁶

- Use in sequences

The COOKING POT in conjunction with food emoji such as rice (🍚), noodles (🍝) and vegetables (🥕) could indicate the making of a specific meal.

👁️ + COOKING POT would indicate that someone is watching the pot, waiting for it to boil.

🐸 + COOKING POT could hint that someone is in hot water and needs to get out before they boil

- Breaking New Ground

Probably not applicable.

Image Distinctiveness

There is no other existing emoji that a user would confuse with the cooking pot emoji, mainly due to the absence of food within the pot. The COOKING POT image is immediately identifiable as a cooking pot because of its gray metal bowl and attached handle. This is by far the most common appearance of a cooking pot, and variants around the world are close enough that it will still be recognizable across different languages and cultures.¹⁷

Completeness

N/A

Frequently Requested

N/A

¹³ <https://twitter.com/emesanmartin/status/942915527571320833>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/albertmascarell/status/926194116492431360>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/wickedwacha/status/964905195800064000>

¹⁶ https://twitter.com/coli_04/status/784049356223700992

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_cooking_vessels

Selection Factors Exclusion

Overly Specific

The cooking pot emoji is not overly specific because it is used across so many cultures and for so many foods, such as rice, noodles, meat and vegetables.

Open Ended

The cooking pot emoji is not open-ended because it has very specific applications as a symbol of cooking. It also is part of a very limited set of cooking hardware (PAN, POT, WOK, etc.)

Already Representable

Other emoji representing the frying pan and "pot of food" are often used to indicate the foods themselves, as opposed to the act of cooking. Indeed, the other two emoji are categorized in the Unicode Emoji Ordering, v.11.0 as "food-prepared" category as opposed to "dishware." Emojipedia lists the keywords for the frying pan as "cooking", "Breakfast", "Fried Egg" and "Frying Pan." The "shallow pan of food" is also known as "paella."

Transient

This general form of the cooking pot as been in use since at least the early 18th Century. The advent of the metalware cooking pot was a turning point in home cooking, making it easier to prepare food over a lite fire or a wood stove.¹⁸ The cooking pot has not altered largely in the last 300 years, so it is unlikely to in the next 50.¹⁹

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

The cooking pot is incorporated into the logos of several companies, mostly food preparation companies. However, it is not copyrighted or copyrightable. A few examples of these logos are included below:

¹⁸ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/64qC9ouhT5W7EaCOt2RNzw>

¹⁹ <http://www.props.eric-hart.com/resources/cooking-pots-history-1642-1969/>



Other Character Properties

(these are preset for emoji, so you can leave this)

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Bios

Samantha Sunne (samanthasunne@gmail.com) is an emoji enthusiast. She helps journalists keep up with technology through various trainings, outreach groups and proselytizing.