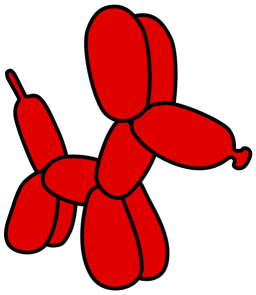
Proposal for Emoji: Balloon Dog

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I. Identification

Sample Image	Proposed Unicode and CLDR Name	Possible CLDR English Keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
	Balloon Dog	balloon animal, twisting, party, celebration, entertainer	

II. Images

Examples

	Color	B/W
18px		
72px		

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Sort Location

Activities > event



III. Factors for Inclusion

Expresses multiple concepts

- Literal reference to a balloon dog
- Reference to similar balloon animals or balloon twisting designs (giraffes, swords, flowers, crowns, etc.)
- Reference to the art and practice of balloon twisting
- Reference to celebrations, parties, etc.
- Vulnerability or fragility
- Childhood
- Playfulness

Can be used with other emoji to convey additional concepts

- Conveying whimsy and the sense of being carefree
  - 🎈🍭
- Crafting something
  - 🌬️🎈
- Clowns and clowning in the literal sense
  - 🤡🎈
- Indicating frivolousness of an endeavor
  - This project is such a waste of time 🤡🎈
- Handing someone an object
  - Take this 🫳🎈
- Transformation
  - 🐕➡️🎈
- Floating away / among the clouds
  - ☁️🎈☁️
- Party/Celebration
  - 🎆🎈🎈🎉
- Explosion as a metaphor for stress
  - I have so much work I'm going to explode 🎈💥
- Popping
  - This one little thing bothered me 🎈📌
- Deflating as a metaphor for disappointment
  - That conference went so poorly 🎈💨

Breaks new ground

There are few emoji representing hand-crafted objects or that can symbolize both the act of creating something and its end result.

While there are existing “clown” and “circus” emoji, “balloon dog” represents a distinct and more approachable activity. Clowning is an established art requiring a broad variety of skills as evidenced by the myriad of “clown schools”; balloon twisting is something that can be learned and practiced with a much lower barrier to entry. It is related to clowning and circuses, but can also be found in more personal settings like a child’s birthday party

There are also few existing cartoonish emoji (besides *fight cloud* and *distorted face*).

Is legible and visually distinctive

The balloon dog is the archetypical form of balloon craft and is one of the simplest. It is easily recognizable as a cultural symbol. The “segmented” form is visually distinct and recognizable even at small sizes.

There are few objects it could be mistaken for – its form is very distinct from that of an actual dog (or even a cartoonish depiction of one) and defined by inflated segments of consistent width. This simple form maintains legibility across different icon sizes.

Unlike other balloon crafts, the balloon dog is made from a single twisting balloon (traditionally a “260” size balloon). As such, it is in reality constrained to a single color. This makes it easily representable as a black-and-white or grayscale image.

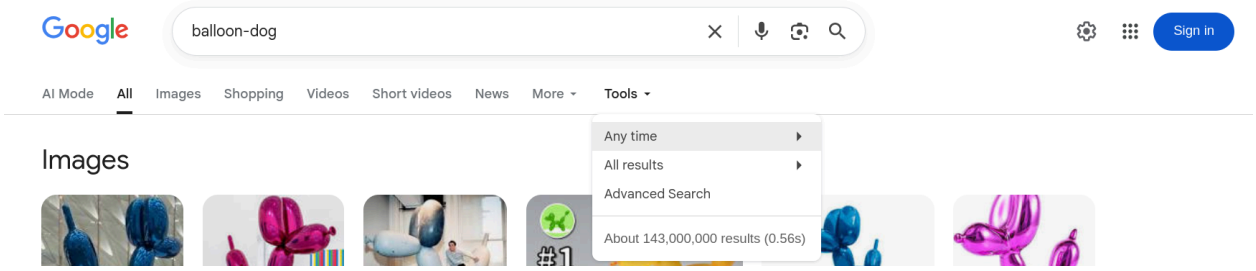


“Balloon Dog (Blue),” a sculpture by Jeff Koons. Image source: Wikipedia

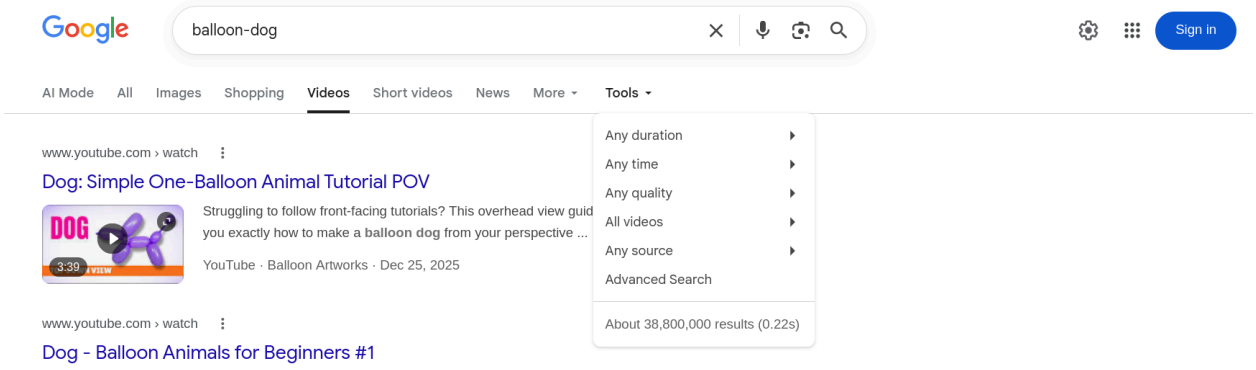
Has a high usage level

Similar emoji (data: https://home.unicode.org/emoji/emoji-frequency/) rank highly in emoji usage statistics. The two dog emojis (🐶, 🐕) are among the highest in the animal category, the balloon 🎈 emoji is ranked fourth in the activities subcategory and 48th overall, and the clown face 🤡 emoji is at the 152nd position overall.

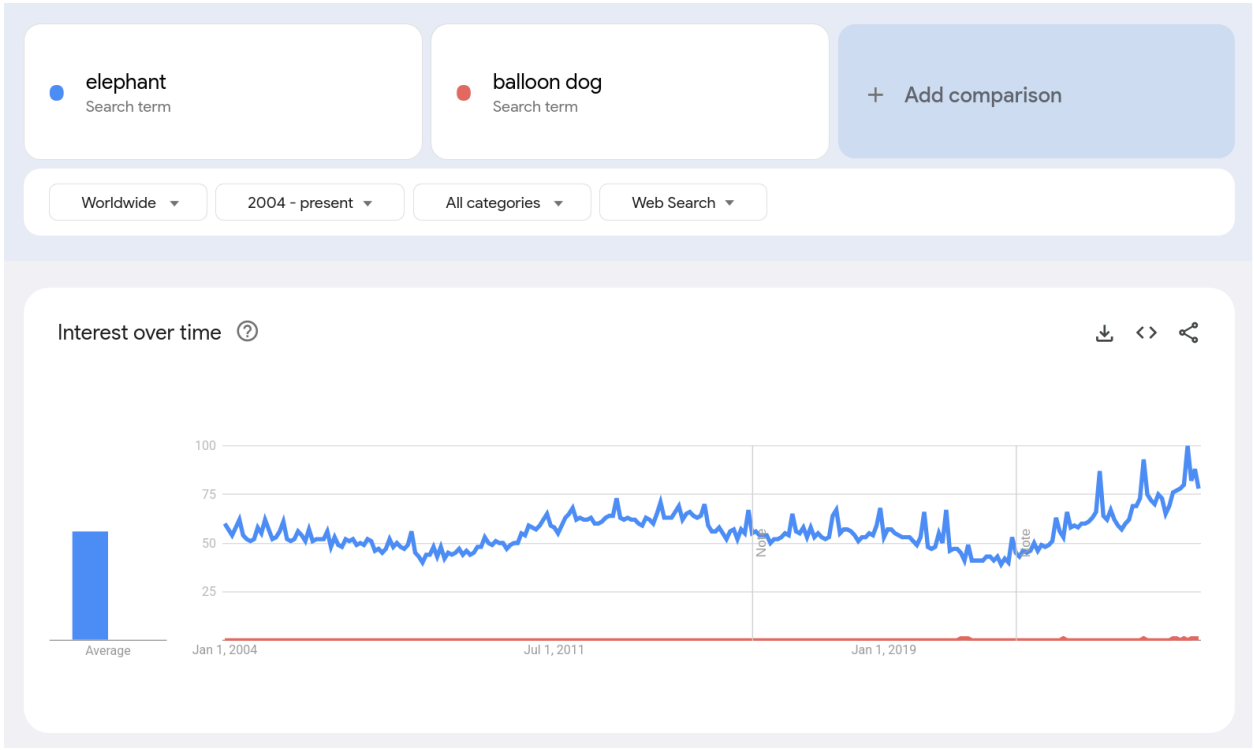
Google Search



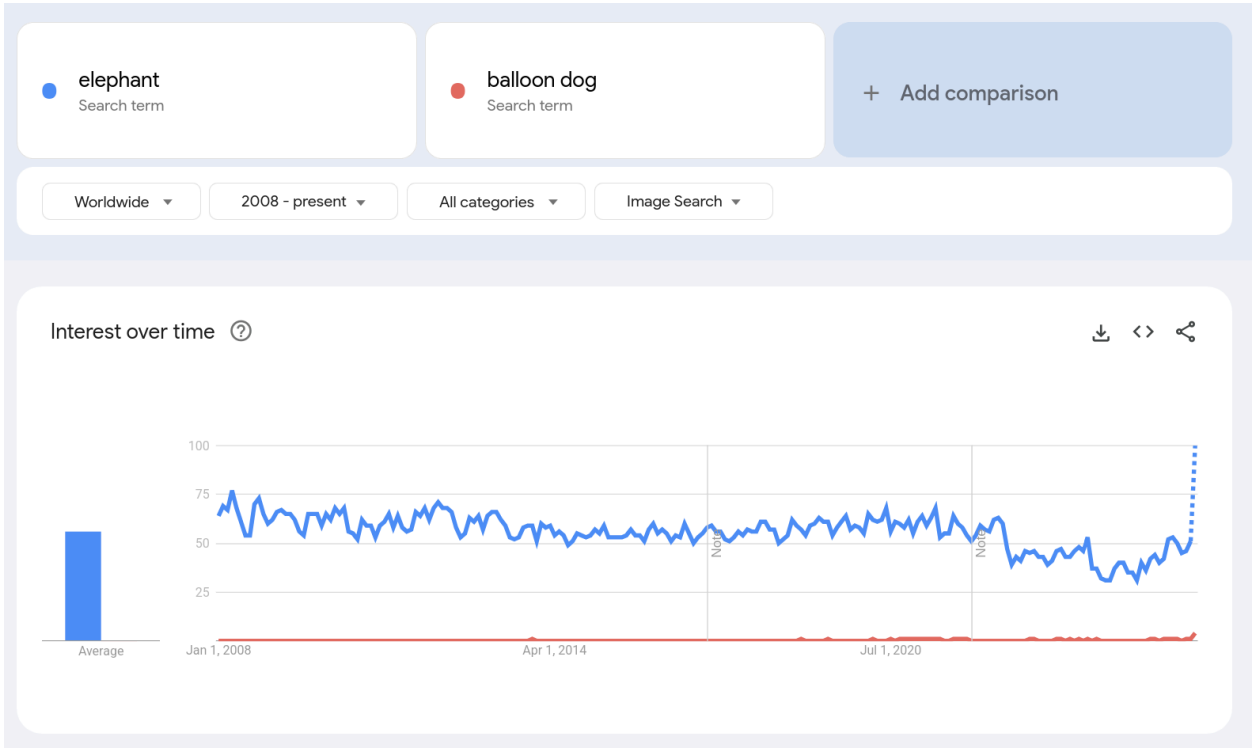
Google Video Search



Google Trends Web Search



Google Trends Image Search



Google Books Ngram Viewer



Completes an incomplete category

The balloon dog emoji would help complete the existing set of clown-related emojis, including circus tent 🎪, clown face 🤡, and person juggling 🤹.

Is needed for compatibility with popular existing systems

N/A

IV. Factors for Exclusion

Already represented

The most similar existing emoji is the round balloon 🎈, but it has a much different shape and categorically different mood. It does not represent balloon twisting or any sort of craft.

The closest representation for “balloon dog” using existing emojis would be 🎈🐕, however the shape of both are quite different from the representation of a balloon dog, and would much more likely be interpreted as a dog holding a balloon rather than the concept of a craft.

The balloon dog is shaped quite differently from an actual dog or even a cartoonish representation of a dog. Thus, using the dog emoji to represent a craft produced by balloon twisting is non-obvious. The same goes for other types of balloon twisting designs.

Overly specific

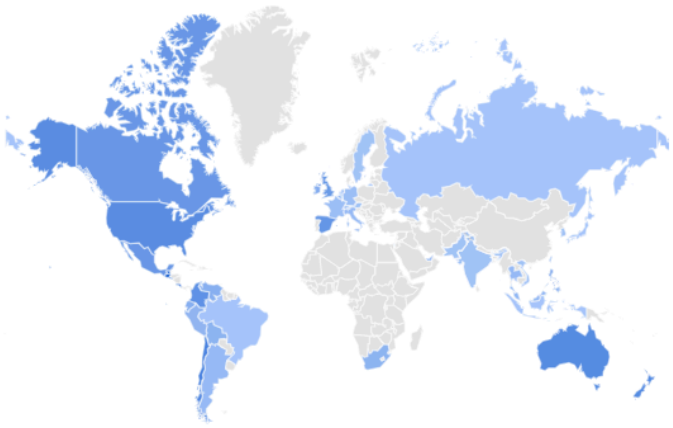
The balloon dog emoji can serve to represent other balloon twisting designs. The balloon dog, specifically, is the most recognizable and most unique of these designs.

Open-ended

As there are no balloon crafts in the standard, this represents the entire category of balloon animals and other balloon crafts. These are a wide range of such crafts, and a wide range of events at which balloon twisting is performed. The balloon animal form has also been depicted in sculpture and art.

Transient

Balloon modeling has been practiced since the first half of the 20th century (https://balloonhq.com/faq/history/) and is an enduring cultural practice performed in many countries.



Google Trends data for “balloon modeling,” demonstrating interest across a variety of countries.

Justified by an existing emoji

This submission for the balloon dog emoji is made on its own merits.