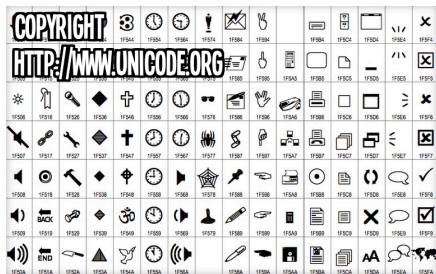## 250 extra characters added to Internet

20th June, 2014

The organization that looks after the code behind the Internet has included an additional 250 characters in its most recent update. All of the characters we see in our Internet browsers, whether they be letters, numbers or symbols, all have a special code so the browser knows what to show online. The system is called Unicode and makes sure that whatever the browser or world language, the characters look as they should. The new "emoji" include many characters used on smart phones in SMS and text messages. People who make websites and Internet users can now make their pages look nicer with symbols that include a smiling face, a spider, a thumbs up, a dove of peace, and many more.

"Emoji" were originally developed in Japan for use on Japanese mobile phones. The word in Japanese is short for "picture-writing character". They quickly became popular around the world, especially among younger people. It could be a while before we can start using the new "emoji" on our cellphones. For that to happen, the big phone makers and software companies, like Apple, Samsung, Nokia, etc. will have to update their fonts and provide updates for consumers. There is still a way to go, however, before the "emoji" are from all cultures. They are currently biased towards Americans and Europeans, including things like a hand signal from the U.S. TV series Star Trek.

Sources: *PC World / CNet.com / TechCrunch*

Writing

Which is better to send and receive, letters on paper or e-mail? Why? Write three good pints and three bad points for each.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

> code / characters / symbols / browser / world language / smart phones / messages / developed / popular / younger people / software company / fonts / cultures / TV series

True / False

a) Google has added 250 characters for people to use on the Internet.   T / F

b) Every letter and number on the Internet has a special code.   T / F

c) Many of the new characters are already used on smart phones. T / F

d) One of the new characters is a smiling face. T / F

e) *Emoji* originally came from Finland. T / F

f) We won't be able to use the new *emoji* on smart phones just yet. T / F

g) Software companies have updated their fonts so we can use the *emoji.* T / F

h) All of the new *emoji* can be used and understood by all cultures. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	looks after	a.	appear
2	included	b.	display
3.	show	c.	give
4.	look	d.	controls
5.	many	e.	particularly
6.	originally	f.	presently
7.	especially	g.	added
8.	update	h.	first
9.	provide	i.	revise
10.	currently	j.	a lot

Discussion – Student A

a) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Internet'?

b) What do you think of having 250 extra Internet characters?

c) Do you often use emoticons and symbols in text messages?

d) What do you think of messages with smiling faces, hearts, etc.?

e) What is the best thing about text messages?

f) Do you prefer just writing or writing with pictures and symbols?

g) What are the good and bad things about emoji?

h) Is plain text better than text full of tiny pictures?

Phrase Match

1.	The organization that looks		a.	to show online
2	its most recent		b.	for consumers
3.	so the browser knows what		c.	of peace
4.	the characters look		d.	younger people
5.	a dove		e.	after the code
6.	originally developed		f.	before we can start
7.	especially among		g.	signal
8.	It could be a while		h.	update
9.	provide updates		i.	as they should
10.	a hand		j.	in Japan

Discussion – Student B

a) Why do you think it has taken so long to put emoji in Internet browsers?

b) What's your favourite Internet browser?

c) Is it OK to use emoji in formal letters or in essays for school?

d) When would you use emoji?

e) Do you think emoji encourage children to write?

f) How many emoji do you think there'll be in 10 years from now?

g) Do emoji characters have any extra meaning in a mail?

h) What questions would you like to ask the Internet code people?

Spelling

1. an dndiatlaio 250 characters

2. Internet werbosrs

3. world glgaaneu

4. text smeasesg

5. make their pages look nicer with slosmyb

6. endcilu a smiling face

7. "Emoji" were roiiglynla developed in Japan

8. They quickly became rpauolp

9. eealpiscyl among younger people

10. tfwareos companies

11. provide uepdast for consumers

12. a hand lisgan

Role Play

Role A – Google
You think Google is the best tech company. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their company. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Apple, Microsoft or Facebook.

Role B – Apple
You think Apple is the best tech company. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their company. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Google, Microsoft or Facebook.

Role C – Microsoft
You think Microsoft is the best tech company. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their company. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Apple, Google or Facebook.

Role D – Facebook
You think Facebook is the best tech company. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their company. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Apple, Microsoft or Google.

Speaking – Characters

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- question mark
- exclamation mark
- smiling face
- thumbs up
- the ampersand sign (&)
- hashtag
- @
- peace sign

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. b	4. a	5. j
6. h	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. f

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.