

# Use keyboard shortcuts to open emoji icons on Windows 10.

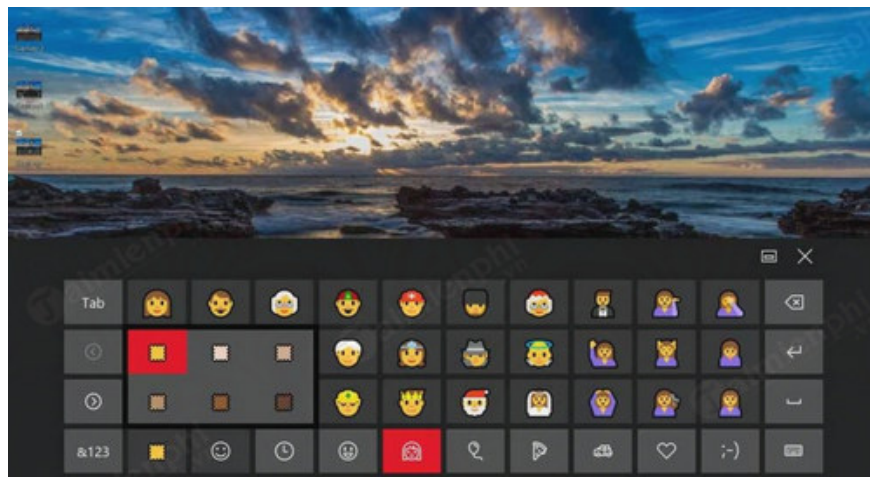
On Windows 10, Microsoft added a special new feature that allows users to easily access and use emojis. Now, Windows 10 users can use keyboard shortcuts to open emoji icons instead of having to perform the traditional steps.

**Emojis** – emoticons, including **smiling** , **happy** , sad, **angry** faces , etc. – are used in applications, primarily in Messenger chats, to allow users to express their emotions.

Although emojis are an old idea, initially most messaging apps and websites primarily used static images and GIFs. Later, modern emojis were developed and used in messaging applications. Emojis are usually created using Unicode fonts and sometimes images; as long as the device has Unicode fonts installed and you type the correct characters, the emoji will appear.

These emojis are supported and integrated into thousands of applications on 'native' mobile platforms, although in Windows Desktop applications, support for color emojis is rare unless the application supports **DirectWrite** . **Android** , **iOS** , and **Windows** (starting with Windows 8 and now Windows 10 ) can display emojis using Unicode fonts.

Starting with Windows 10 build 16215, Microsoft has simplified the process of accessing and searching for emojis using a physical keyboard instead of a virtual one . Users can now use keyboard shortcuts to open and use emojis from the emoji panel.



First, you need to know how to use emojis on Windows 10. Windows 10 supports a virtual keyboard containing many different emojis, so to use emojis on Windows 10 , you need to open the emoji virtual keyboard.

[Keyboard shortcut to open emoji icons on Windows 10](#)

*Step 1:* Open any data editing application that you want to insert emojis into via a shortcut.

*Step 2:* Use the keyboard shortcuts below to open emojis:

1. Use the **Windows key** + **.** to open the emoji panel on your computer, or you can use the Windows key + **;** to open the emoji panel.
2. Use the arrow keys to scroll, move up, down, right, and left to view the emojis.
3. Use the **Tab** key to cycle through the emoji categories.
4. Use the **Shift + Tab** key combination to go back to the previous emoji category.

Press **Enter** to paste the selected emoji into the text box.

*Step 3:* After you have finished pasting the emojis, press the **Esc** key to exit the emoji panel.

Follow the same steps to add more emojis.

A list of keyboard shortcuts to open Emoji icons on Windows 10.

<b>Emoji manipulation on Windows 10</b>	<b>Shortcut</b>
Open the emoji panel	Windows + . or Windows + ;
View the emojis	Arrow keys
Change emoji category	Tab key
Insert (paste) emoji	Enter key
Exit the emoji board	Esc key

However, it's worth noting that while the emoji panel contains almost all the emojis available on modern mobile devices, it still lacks some features. Smartphones offer users features like changing the color tone of emojis, but the Windows 10 emoji panel is missing this feature.

Emojis were quite popular on mobile phones in Japan in the late 1990s. Apple's addition of emojis to iPhones and macOS further popularized them. This was followed by **Android** and **Windows** also supporting emojis in their modern applications.

Using emojis allows users to easily express their emotions instead of using words. And what's even better is that users can quickly and conveniently access emoji icons on Windows 10 using keyboard shortcuts.

Opening the virtual keyboard on Windows 10 helps you better protect your information, especially when entering passwords for online accounts, preventing detection by spyware and keyloggers hidden on the system. Therefore, remember to open the Windows 10 virtual keyboard regularly.

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