

SMILEYS

E-mail messages and phone texts must be brief in content. They usually use a chatty style, much the same as informal conversation. The problem is that the nuances and subtlety of wry humour and sarcasm are difficult to convey in print, which is why cute little symbols called smileys (or more rarely emoticons) have been developed: to prevent the reader from misinterpreting a wryly humorous, sarcastic or ironic remark as insulting or offensive. Smileys can be written using keys on the keyboard. They need to be read by tilting your head to the left.

Here are some examples. Can you match them to their meanings listed below?

:-)	
;-)	
;-)	
:-I	
:-/	I'm sceptical
:-~	

- Your Basic smiley. This is used to mean *I'm happy*.
- Frowning smiley. *I did not like something*.
- Winking smiley. *I'm flirting or being ironic*.
- I have a cold*.
- I'm sceptical*
- I am indifferent*.

Here are six more emoticons:

%o-)	
:-@	I am screaming
<:-I	
I-I	
:-D	
:-P	

- I am a dunce.
- I am asleep.
- I am screaming.
- I am laughing.
- I'm sticking my tongue out at you.
- I've been staring at this screen for too long.