

Vodafone's  
**Emoji  
Decoder**

# EMOJIS IN THE WORKPLACE ARE HERE TO STAY! 😊

But differences in their interpretation can leave some colleagues confused, clueless - or worse, accidentally offended.

Let's take a 🧑 through some of the most used emojis at work and their (multiple) meanings.

## THUMBS UP

### The most used emoji of them all.

Men are more likely to use the thumbs up than women, and it is often seen as a sign of genuine approval or agreement.

Lower management just see this as a quick "coooooo!" and are less likely to see this as positive encouragement, compared to senior or middle management.



**But beware** – frequent emoji users are more likely to interpret this as sarcastic or to show indifference, especially younger generations.

# SKULL

**Senior managers** interpret this emoji as danger or a warning. Use with caution.



Your Gen Z and Millennial colleagues, or those based in NSW or VIC are more likely to see this as a symbol of dark humour or sarcasm.

**Nearly a third of Gen Z and Millennials** use this when they're 'dying' either of embarrassment or exhaustion. Gen Z also interpret this as rebellion or edginess.

# HIGH FIVE

**Over half of Aussies** use this emoji to say thank you.

But a quarter of Gen X may read this as a spiritual gesture or prayer.



Some also use this pair of hands to request help or support. Shockingly, the least popular use of this emoji is to symbolise a high five.

# CRYING LAUGHING

Sure, this screams “laughed so hard I cried” but don’t be fooled. **One in ten remote workers** use it with a heavy dose of sarcasm...



...and some parents drop this emoji when they are **nervously panicking**. It’s the digital version of laughing through the chaos.

# MELTING FACE

**Most Aussies** interpret this as someone melting under pressure. We’re stressed just thinking about it.



It is also used for Gen Z’s awkward moments or secondhand embarrassment. Think “I sent that message in the wrong group chat”.

**For remote workers**, this is less meltdown and more melodrama. A theatrical way to say, “that meeting could have been an email”.

**Hybrid workers** use this to signal emotional exhaustion, quiet defeat, or the slow drip of burnout between meetings.

# FIRE

Almost half of us use this to say **something is amazing or exciting**. Straight up fire.



**Be warned** some see this as a cheeky compliment. Send it in the wrong chat and you might go from fire to fired.

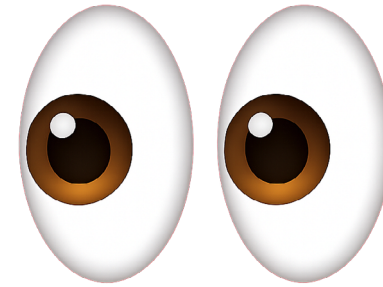
**Older generations tend to take it at face value.**

As in: The office is on fire. Evacuate now. What was intended to hype someone up could accidentally spark an evacuation. Use with care and context.

# EYES

This watchful emoji is perfect for showing you're tuned in and keeping an eye on what's happening – or for showing intrigue to your younger colleagues.

You can also use this when you want to say "I'm curious," "I'm paying attention," or "spill the tea!"



**But beware, these eyes can be confusing.**

Aussies read them as friendly curiosity, serious side-eye, shady surveillance or patient anticipation. Part-timers in particular might read it as "I'm watching you". You wouldn't want to cause any eye-rolling drama...

Emojis decoded.  
Drama avoided.

