

Proposal for Emoji: Clamshell Mobile Phone

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Date: 17 April 2025

1. Identification:

- a. **Keywords:** flip | clamshell | mobile | communication | phone | telephone
- b. **Category:** phone

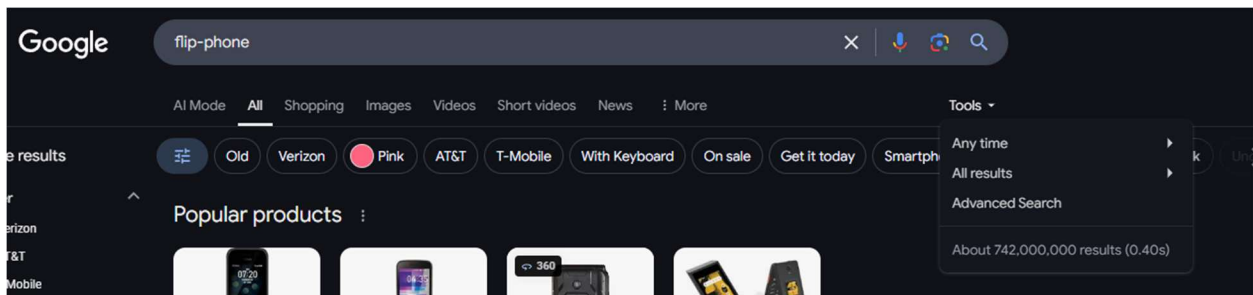
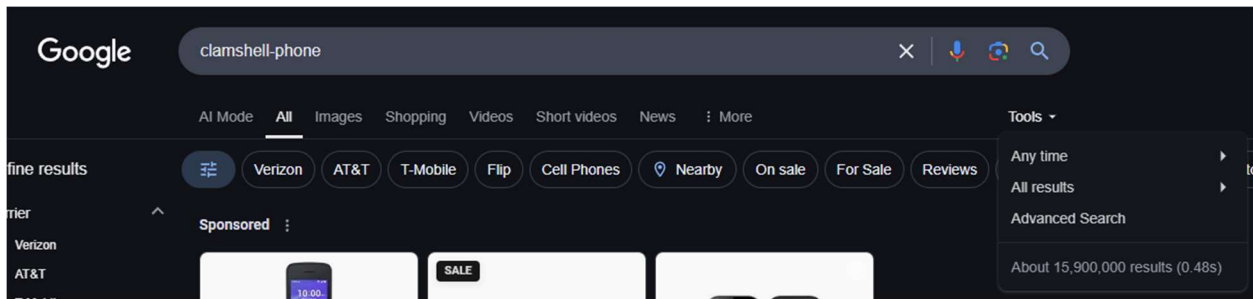
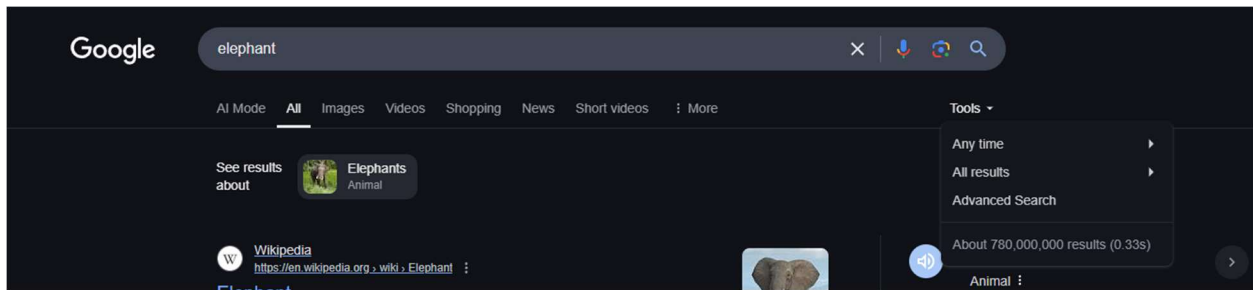
2. Images:



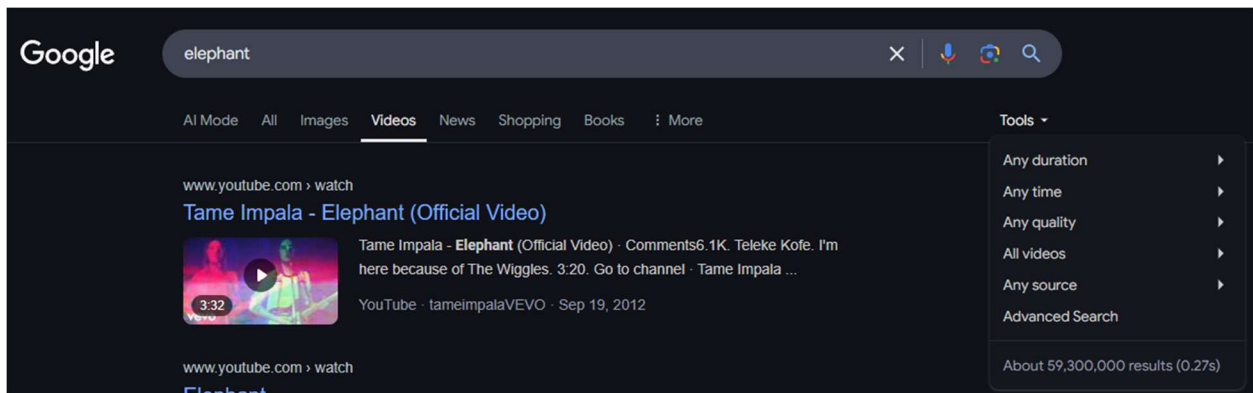
- a.
- b. **License:** Image was sourced from emoji one via Wikimedia https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emoji one 1_F581.svg and is licensed cc-by-sa-4.0. Black and white image was produced by me in GIMP. No copyright is claimed over this transformation and the black and white image retains the original cc-by-sa-4.0 license.

3. Factors for Inclusion:

- a. **Expresses multiple concepts:** 📞 can refer to a physical flip phone, but can also be used to refer to retro tech or nostalgia (ie the 1990's or early 2000's)
- b. **Use in sequences:** 📞🌐 could refer to uploading to the Matrix.
- c. **Breaks new ground:** No.
- d. **Distinctiveness:** 📞 (U-1F581) already exists as a Unicode character, but is invisible on some operating systems, such as Android devices, because it is not recommended for Emoji presentation. The flip phone is an iconic, and nostalgic representation of an entire era of technology, the 1990's to the early 2000's, when people had phones but were not plugged into the Internet 24/7. It has such strong zeitgeist that we see it used again and again in film and TV to evoke the era, in works such as *Breaking Bad* and *Matrix*. *Matrix* is notable here because the flip phone was used to represent the era in real time, before it even ended.
- e. **Usage level:**
 - 1. Google Search:



2. Google Video Search:



Google

clamshell-phone

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- Any duration
- Any time
- Any quality
- All videos
- Any source
- Advanced Search

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Why I switched back to a flip phone (as a gen z) 🌞

It isn't even **flip phone**, it is just a stubby, block-shaped nokia. And I couldn't be happier. I've never doom scrolled, never had tiktok, never ...

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Why I Still Use a Flip Phone (And Why You Should Too)

About 883,000 results (0.34s)

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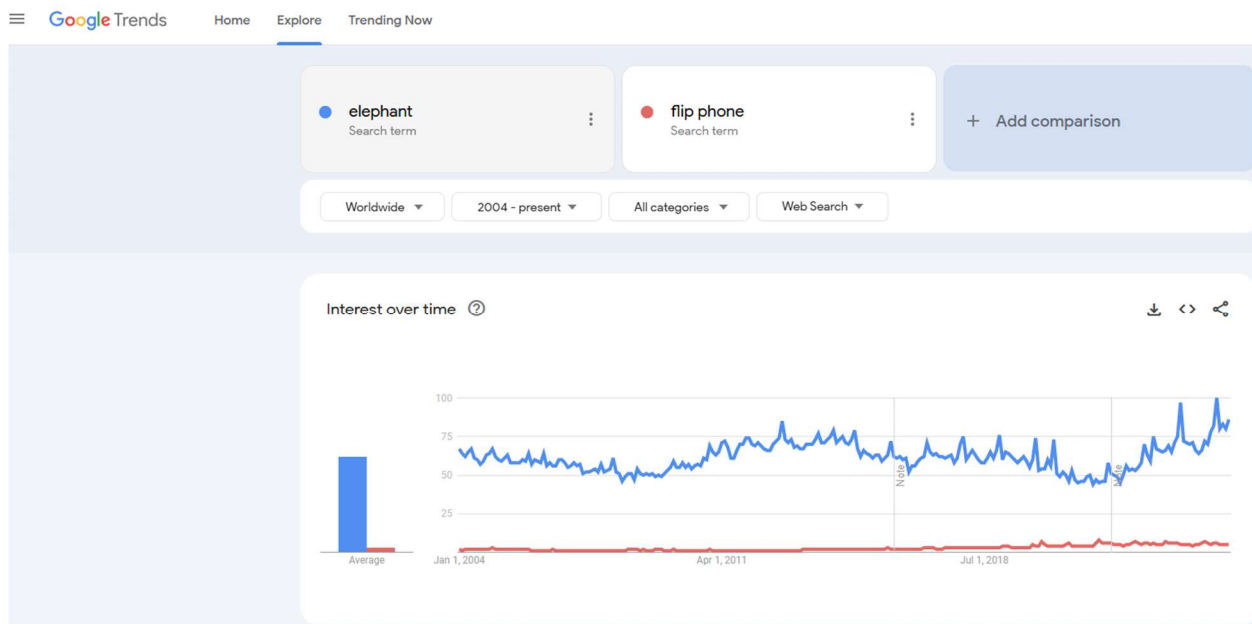
YouTube · sakuraopal · 1 month ago

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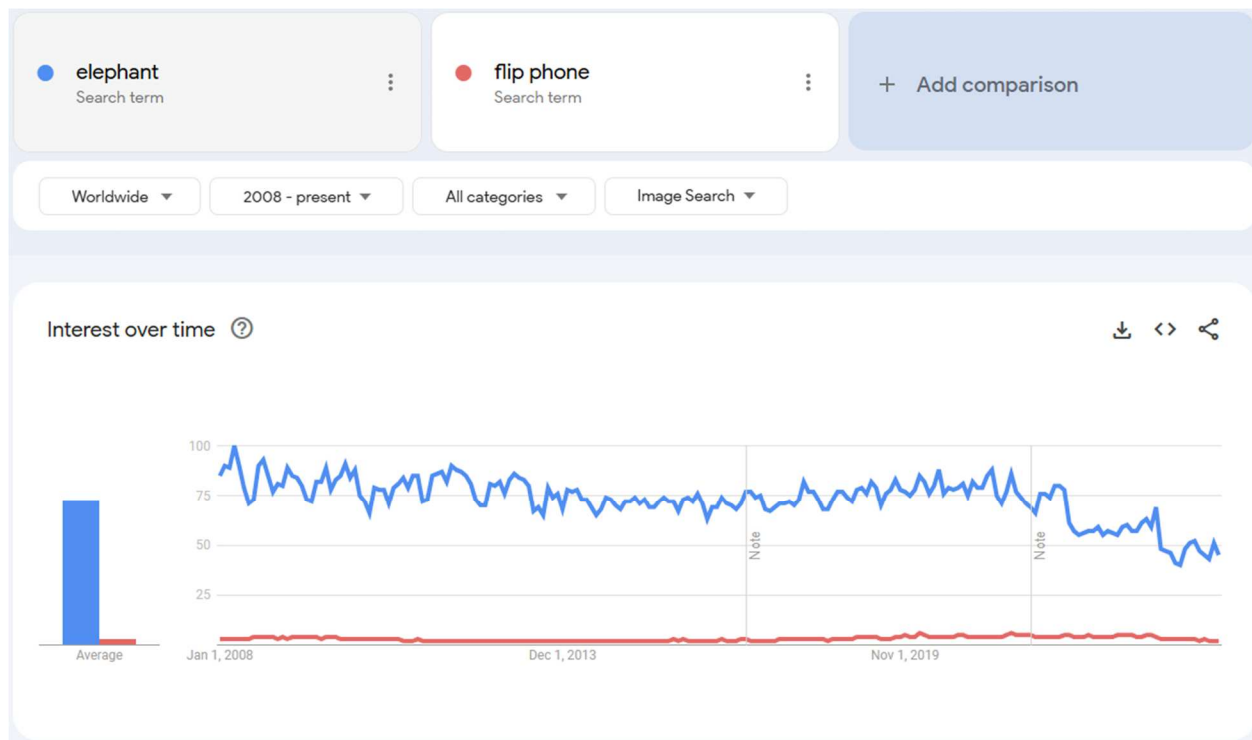
I Switched To A Flip Phone in 2025

About 43,800,000 results (0.19s)

3. Google Trends: Web Search



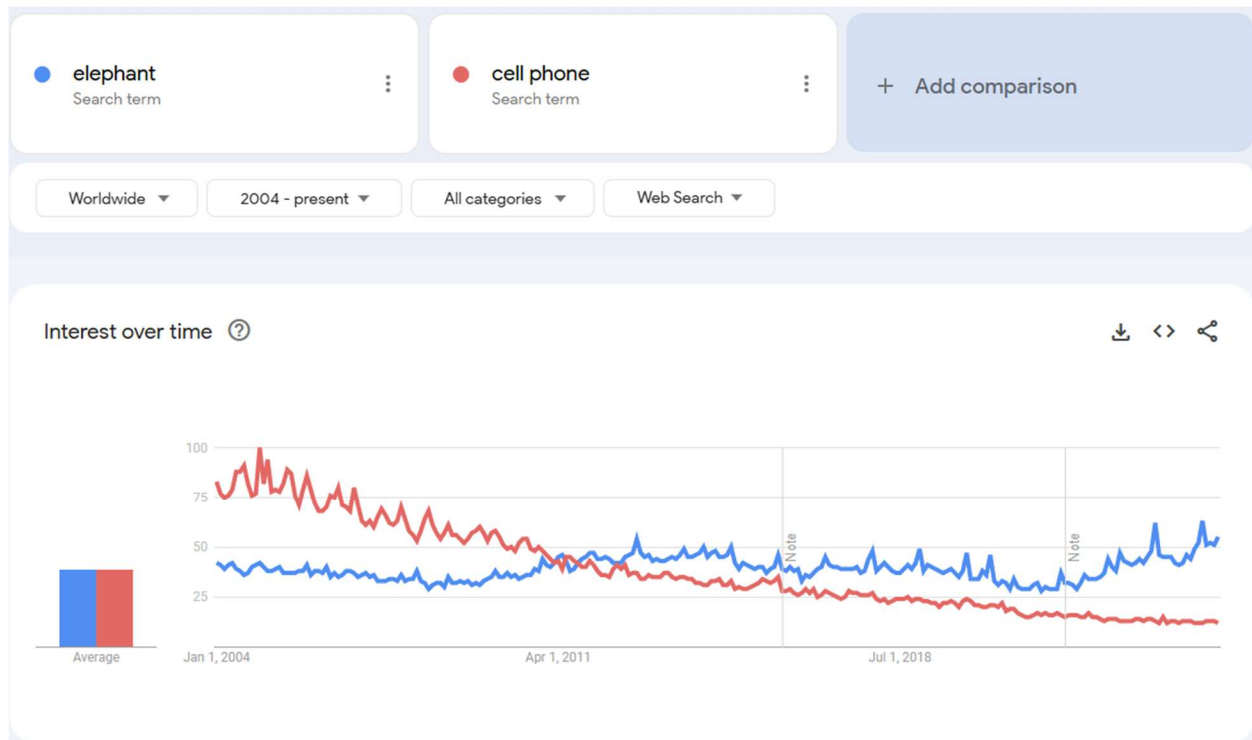
4. Google Trends: Image Search



5. Google Books Ngram Viewer



Note that while this search term performs poorly in Google Trends, searching for synonyms such as cell phone or mobile phone, particularly in the era before the smartphone, shows different results, for example



f. **Completeness:** The “phone” category of Emojis contains a “mobile phone” (smartphone), a “mobile phone with arrow”, a “telephone” (land-line), a “telephone receiver”, a pager, and a fax machine. It does not contain the iconic and nostalgia-inducing flip phone.

g. **Compatibility:** n/a

4. Factors for Exclusion

- a. **Already representable:** The existing mobile phone emoji shows a smartphone, not the nostalgia-inducing flip phone.
- b. **Overly specific:** Covers an entire class of flip phones, and even more recent foldable phones, not a specific model of phone.
- c. **Open-ended:** Adding this phone “completes the set” and does not suggest adding any additional phone types, such as niche devices like slider phones.
- d. **Transient:** Clamshell phones have enduring nostalgia for the pre-smartphone era, and there is a growing interest in retro phones for “digital detox”.
- e. **Fault comparison:** The iconic flip phone stands on its own merits, and is not being proposed by comparison to any other emoji.