

What are Emoji?

Emoji are pictures, symbols, or other visual graphics that are used primarily to fill in emotional cues that may otherwise be missed in electronic communication. They are often used to add a more creative element to electronic communications but can also be used to converse about risky subjects like the use of illegal drug substances.

Emoji as symbols for drugs are used constantly on social media, in text messages, and online to conceal drug-related messages. However, as communication evolves and spreads exponentially faster, emoji symbols that were once surreptitiously used to represent drugs and drug dealing now are becoming common knowledge.

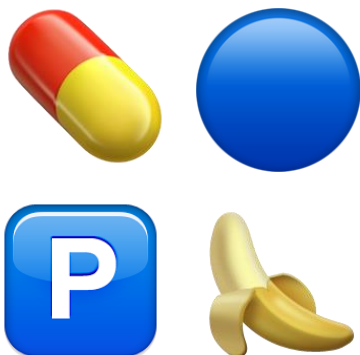
The most popular social media platforms for buying and selling drugs are Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. A large user base and ease of use make each platform a popular venue for drug transactions.



Emoji Used to Represent Drugs

Percocet and Oxycodone/Opioids

Percocet and Oxycodone are both highly addictive narcotics that can result in death if taken in high doses, or if mixed with other substances. Oxycodone, which is used in Percocet®, is a powerful opioid. It is derived from the same source as heroin, **fentanyl**, and morphine, making these particularly concerning drugs; especially in the hands of children.



When symbolizing these emoji for drugs, they may be represented by:

- A yellow and red pill capsule emoji
- A blue circle emoji
- An emoji with the white letter P is set against a blue square frame
- A banana emoji

Xanax

Xanax is another prescription drug with a high risk for addiction. It is typically used to treat anxiety and panic disorders and is the number one prescribed psychiatric medication in the country. In fact, most teens who develop an addiction to this drug gain access to it through sneaking pills out of their parent's prescription bottles. The known emoji that reference this particular drug include:



- A yellow and red pill capsule emoji
- A chocolate bar emoji
- A bus emoji

Adderall

Adderall is commonly used to treat individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) and is another psychiatric medication that can be addictive in nature.

For those with this disorder, taking Adderall produces a calming effect and enhances their ability to focus and function in their everyday lives. However, for those who do not have ADHD, Adderall can produce feelings of euphoria and greatly increase their energy levels.

Adderall is particularly popular amongst high school and college students for increasing studying and performance abilities. The most common emoji for drugs related to [Adderall](#) are:

- A yellow and red pill capsule emoji
- The letter A, followed by a hyphen (A-), and a train emoji



Mushrooms

Magic mushrooms, or "shrooms", are a type of mushroom containing either psilocybin or psilocin. Typically causing strong hallucinations and a sense of euphoria, these are most commonly represented by:

- A mushroom emoji



Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine, popularly referred to as “meth” or “crystal meth”, is a highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Methamphetamine is abused because it produces euphoric effects that can last up to 24 hours. It is inexpensive and relatively easy to produce, making it affordable and readily available to teenagers.



The emoji that represent this drug include:

- **A crystal ball emoji**
- **A blue heart emoji**
- **A diamond emoji**
- **A test tube emoji**

Cocaine

Cocaine is a recreational stimulant drug that can easily become addictive due to the euphoric feelings and intense rush it provides to those who use it. However, because this substance can very easily lead to overdose (especially if mixed with other drugs), understanding the drug slang surrounding it is imperative.

There are a number of emoji individuals can look out for, including:

- **A snowflake, or snow cloud emoji**
- **A snowman emoji**
- **A diamond emoji**
- **An eight-ball emoji**
- **A key emoji**
- **A silly face emoticon (usually with the mouth open and tongue sticking out)**
- **A blowfish emoji**



Marijuana

Perhaps one of the most used substances amongst kids and teens, marijuana (or cannabis, also known as weed) has several emojis that are used to represent it when talking in a digital format, including:



- **A puff of air or blowing wind emoji**
- **A surprised face emoticon (usually with mouth and eyes open in an 'o' shape)**
- **A fire emoji**
- **A palm tree or pine tree emoji**
- **A clover emoji**

THC

THC or tetrahydrocannabinol is the main psychoactive chemical in marijuana (cannabis). It is often sold in cartridges that are heated to a temperature that causes the THC to vaporize. The vapor is then inhaled into the lungs. Teens and adults often think this is a safer way to use THC as it avoids ingesting smoke, but vaping THC can lead to significant health concerns including an increased chance of developing psychosis, schizophrenia, anxiety, paranoia, lung disease, and lung cancer. Common emoji used to symbolize THC include:

- **A shopping cart**
- **A diamond**
- **A pot of honey**



Heroin

Heroin is an opioid made from morphine, which can be incredibly addictive. Heroin users report feeling a “rush” or euphoria, but common side effects include dry mouth and clouded mental functioning, among other things, and long-term effects may include collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, and lung complications.

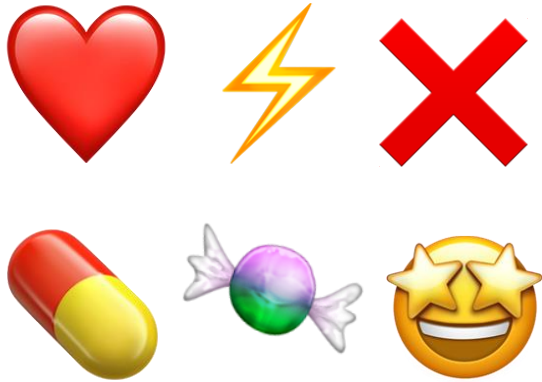


The following are symbols used to represent heroin:

- **A dragon emoji**
- **A brown heart emoji**
- **A syringe emoji**

MDMA & Mollies

MDMA, the most common forms of which are molly and ecstasy, are psychoactive drugs that can easily make those involved with using these substances form a dependency on them.



In social media or text message conversations about MDMA & Mollies, the following symbols may be used:

- A red heart emoji
- A lightning bolt emoji
- A red X emoji
- A yellow and red pill capsule emoji
- A hard candy emoji
- A starry-eyed face emoticon

Cough Syrup

While not illegal, cough syrup is quickly becoming a heavily abused substance, particularly amongst kids who may be heavily involved in partying. In these cases, a teen may seek out cough medicine from a parent or guardian's medicine cabinet due to its high alcohol content.

This is a rising trend in which teens mix cough syrup with soda (and sometimes alcohol) and use this substance to get high. Some emoji for drugs related to this substance are:

- A grape emoji
- A purple heart emoji
- A showerhead emoji



The Emoji that Mean (Drug) Business

When it comes to communicating the business end of substance use, the shorthand change of drug slang proves relevant to drug dealers, too. If you want to understand how dealers talk business, there are several symbols you should be aware of in the wider lexicon of emoji for drugs.

The Universal Symbol



While most drugs have their own specific emoji to represent them, there is one universal symbol that encompasses all forms of substance use. Believed to have been inspired by the five-point shape of the cannabis leaf, the maple leaf emoji is the universal symbol of all forms of substances.

Advertising the Product

When it comes to advertising, a drug dealer may utilize several emoji to market their brand in a discreet way. These may include:

- A money face emoticon (usually with eyes and mouth/tongue as dollar signs)
- A crown emoji
- A money bag emoji
- A dollar sign or stack of bills emoji
- A plug or electric chord emoji



Visualizing the Strong Stuff

Within the world of substance abuse, there are certain drugs that have a particular emphasis placed upon their potency. When talking about highly potent drugs online or cellularly, these may be represented by symbols such as:



- A rocket ship emoji
- A bomb emoji
- An explosion emoji (usually cartoon-like in appearance)

Other Common Emoji in Drug Transactions

There are other emoji used to represent various things in drug transactions. The following are emoji and their drug-associated meanings:



These are used to represent good quality.



This is used to say "Don't sleep", meaning don't miss out on a deal, or don't miss an opportunity.



This is used to represent great quality or getting high.



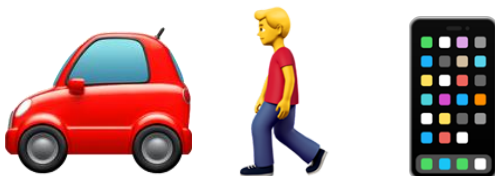
Drug dealers will also use these emoji as status symbols, to show they are making money, are a successful dealer, or are hustling more than others.



This is used to represent getting high.



Popcorn is sometimes used to give a unit price, such as "\$5 per pop" and is used in bulk pills sales.



These emoji are used to represent that the dealer is in business, is making deliveries, or can be called to place an order



A backpack or bricks emoji can be used to indicate packages of multiple units such as pills, marijuana pounds, etc.

Sources: dea.gov/onepill

<https://findaddictionrehab.com/emoji-for-drugs/>