

Proposal for Emoji: Color Blindness Symbol

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Date: 2026 July 16

Identification:

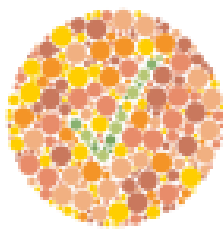
CLDR Short Name: Color Blindness Symbol

CLDR keywords: colorblind, color blindness, color vision deficiency, cvd, ishihara test, daltonism, deuteranomaly, protanomaly, tritanomaly, vision, test, circle, dots, multicolor

Category: Symbols - Geometric Shapes - Colored Circles

After MEDIUM WHITE CIRCLE         ¹

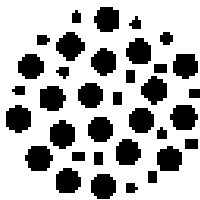
Images:



72 by 72



18 by 18



BW 72 by 72



BW 18 by 18

License:

I certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the Unicode Consortium and are of my creation. Note that the Ishihara Test using Arabic numerals is under copyright. Generic shapes must be used in the design to be considered open source. See 'Other Information' section below.

¹ Conceptually, this emoji belongs alongside other accessibility icons, such as the service dog (), ear with hearing aid (), or person in motorized wheelchair (). However, because Unicode lacks a unified accessibility category, these symbols are currently scattered across distinct sections. Given this fragmentation, placing the color blindness symbol adjacent to the existing geometric colored circles ( ,  , ) provides the most intuitive and visually consistent alternative.

Abstract:

This proposal requests the encoding of the color blindness symbol. While a wide range of accessibility symbols currently exist, color deficiency is unrepresented. This character will serve as a vital tool for self-identity, personal communication, and accessibility awareness.

Introduction:

Color vision deficiency (CVD) represents one of the most widespread accessibility issues globally, affecting approximately 300 million people worldwide.² While the functional aspects of color vision deficiency do not impact daily life tasks as strongly as deafness, amputees, vision loss, or the like, its challenges are much broader than commonly recognized. Traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, sports, cooking, or buying clothes are all persistent problems. Work situations or educational material where charts, maps, or diagrams are color coded can become major problems. Especially because color vision deficiency is not as widely acknowledged as other accessibility issues.

For over 300 million people, navigating a world designed around standard color perception is a constant, defining aspect of their personal identity. Whether explaining a visual misperception to a peer, discussing accessibility accommodations in information technology, or sharing personal experiences within disability communities, individuals lack a symbol similar to other accessibility emoji.

In addition to people with color vision deficiency, creators of any form of visual media are also involved in accessibility issues. Anyone involved with creating transit maps, academic textbooks, video game menus, charts, graphs, maps, or digital media need a way to seamlessly label (or request labeling) of their designs.

While 'color vision deficiency' is the correct medical term³, this proposal requests the character name COLOR BLINDNESS SYMBOL. This matches Unicode guidelines of using the most widely recognized name. Although the word 'Daltonism' is common in British-English⁴, it

²Colour Blind Awareness. (n.d.). *Colour blindness*. <https://www.colourblindawareness.org/colour-blindness/>

³ "Color Blindness: Symptoms and Causes." *Mayo Clinic*, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/color-blindness/symptoms-causes/syc-20354988>.

⁴ "Daltonism Definition and Meaning." *Collins English Dictionary*, [collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/daltonism](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/daltonism).

is not widely recognized globally. Additionally, there does exist objection to using the term 'blind' in a colloquial sense such as 'blind leading the blind' or 'robbed me blind'⁵. But this objection does not extend to the use of 'colorblind'⁶. Many advocacy and inclusion organizations use the word 'colorblind' directly as an alternative to the term 'Color vision deficiency'.⁷⁸

This proposal adopts the universally recognized geometric shape of an Ishihara color vision test plate. This image is consistent cross culturally.



Although Ishihara plates require color to “work”, a pure black and white image that shows multi-sized dots arranged in a circle can still be recognized as an Ishihara plate. This geometric independence ensures the character functions perfectly across all operating systems and print media without relying on color display capabilities.

⁵ Canadian National Institute for the Blind [CNIB]. (2024). Inclusive language guidelines. https://www.cnib.ca/sites/default/files/2024-10/24-0432-CNIB_Inclusive%20Language%20Guidelines_ENG_FINAL-s.pdf

⁶ Disability Language Style Guide." National Center on Disability and Journalism, 2021, <https://cronkite.asu.edu/ncdj/disability-language-style-guide>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice. (2022). *Guidance on web accessibility and the ADA*. Civil Rights Division. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-guidance/>

⁸ Web Accessibility Initiative. (n.d.). *Visual disabilities*. W3C. <https://www.w3.org/WAI/people-use-web/abilities-barriers/visual/>

⁹ Baidu Images. (n.d.). [Search results for the query "色盲" / Color blindness]. Retrieved July, 2026, from <https://image.baidu.com/search/index?word=色盲>

¹⁰ Yandex Images. (n.d.). [Search results for the query "Цветовая слепота" / Color blindness]. Retrieved July, 2026, from <https://yandex.ru/images/search?text=цветоваяслепота>

¹¹ Google Images. (n.d.). [Search results for the query "वर्णधता" / Color blindness]. Retrieved July, 2026, from <https://www.google.com/search?udm=2&q=वर्णधता>

¹² Google Images. (n.d.). [Search results for the query "عمى الألوان" / Color blindness]. Retrieved July, 2026, from [https://www.google.com/search?udm=2&q=عمى الألوان](https://www.google.com/search?udm=2&q=عمى%20الالوان)

Factors for Inclusion

Multiple meanings:

Racially colorblind: In the United States, 'colorblind' is a metaphor for the belief that ethnicity should not factor into social treatment.¹³

政治色盲 (politically colorblind) : In China, 'colorblind' is sometimes used to imply someone is not able to distinguish between different political ideologies, or is apathetic to political issues.¹⁴¹⁵

социальный дальтонизм (Social Daltonism): In extremely rare cases, Russia will use 'colorblind' as a metaphor to explain Asperger Syndrome.¹⁶

Use in sequences:

[gear icon] + [color blindness symbol] Colorblind settings

[color blindness symbol] + [video game controller] Colorblind mode

[color blindness symbol] + [artist palette] Inclusive art direction

[color blindness symbol] + [bar chart] This graph isn't accessible

[color blindness symbol] + [red question mark] Would you please tell me what color this is?

Breaks new ground:

Existing accessibility emojis focus on physical accommodations (such as ). This proposal breaks new ground as the first¹⁷ dedicated symbol designed for digital accessibility rather than physical accessibility.

¹³ Racial color blindness. (2026, May 20). In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_color_blindness

¹⁴ 政治色盲 [Political Colorblindness]. (2026). In Baidu Search. <https://www.baidu.com/s?wd=政治色盲>

¹⁵ 01 社區 x 爆笑節: 棟篤笑 包你笑到除禱. (2018, July 18). 香港 01. <https://www.hk01.com/article/212536/01社區-x-爆笑節-棟篤笑-包你笑到除禱>

¹⁶ Dubovik, O. (2024). Политическая дальтония как защитный механизм психики. B17.ru. <https://www.b17.ru/article/477971/>

¹⁷ While users occasionally repurpose the Speech Balloon () to represent closed captioning or subtitles in digital media, this is an informal workaround and not the primary semantic purpose of that emoji.

Distinctiveness:

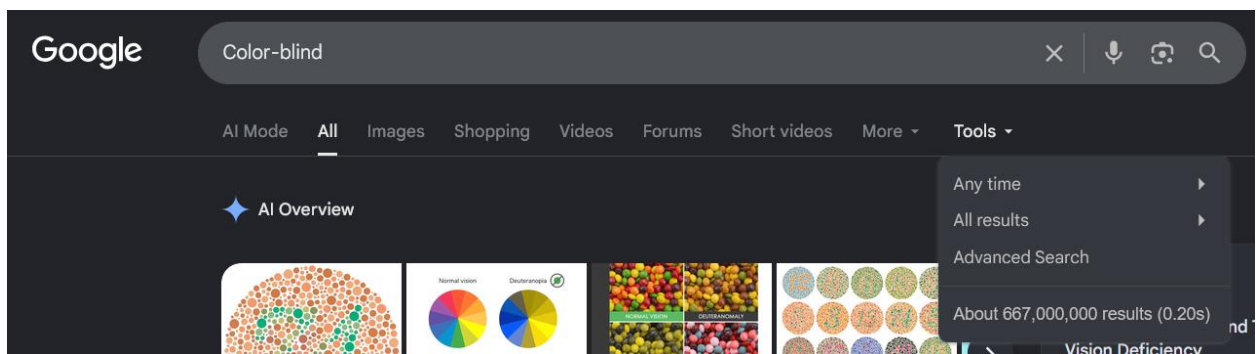
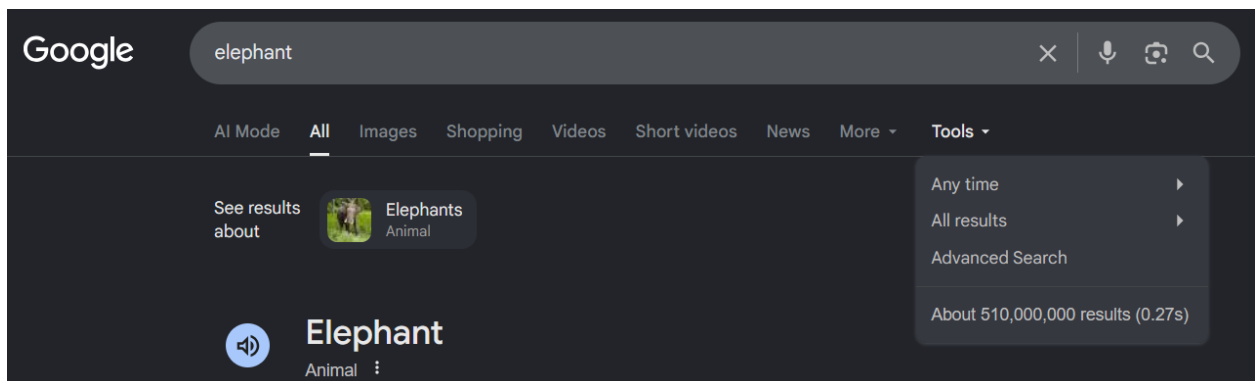
The Bubbles emoji (🫧) is similar in that it is variously sized dots making up a larger shape. However, the bubbles are shaded to represent a 3-dimensional sphere, and the overall shape is a clustered organic blob rather than a circle.

The Petri Dish emoji (🧫) is similar in that it is made of dots inside a larger circle. But in this case, the internal dots are all the same size. There is also a distinct bounding circle around all the dots representing the container itself.

Frequency:

Search

Elephant	About 510,000,000
Color-blind	About 667,000,000



Video Search

Elephant	About 75,900,000
Color-blind	About 52,200,000

Google elephant

AI Mode All Images **Videos** Shopping News Forums More Tools

www.youtube.com › watch

Time with the Elephant Herd as Night Approaches

Adine spends time with the herd, moving slowly through the checks in on each **elephant** and takes note of who is where.

13:29 YouTube · HERD Elephant Orphanage South Africa · Dec 19

www.youtube.com › watch

The Elephant Herd Loving the First Spring Rains

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

About 75,900,000 results (0.18s)

Google color-blind

AI Mode All Images **Videos** Shopping News Forums More Tools

www.youtube.com › shorts

Can You Pass This Colorblind Test?

Are you **colorblind**? Take this quick quiz to find out! This vid engaging color test using Ishihara plates to challenge your ...

1:25 YouTube · Doctor Eye Health · Nov 26, 2025

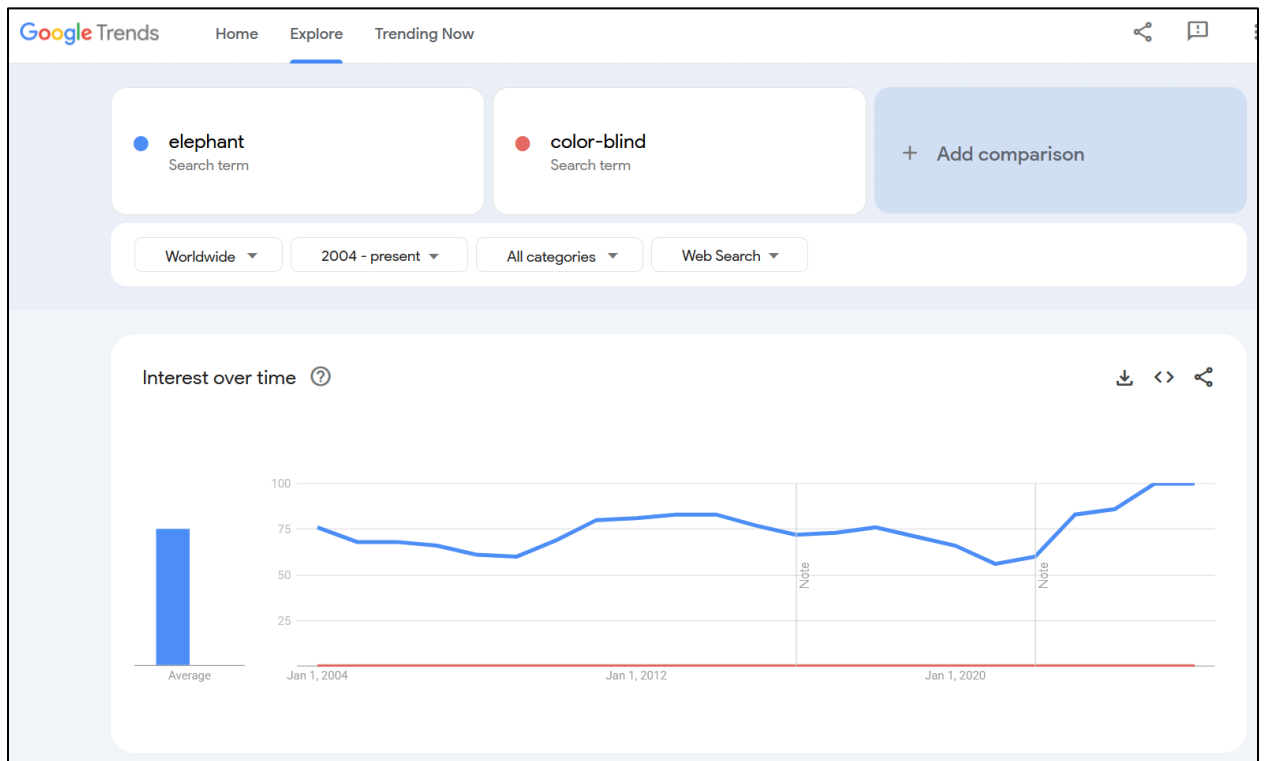
www.youtube.com › watch

2-Minute Neuroscience: Color Blindness

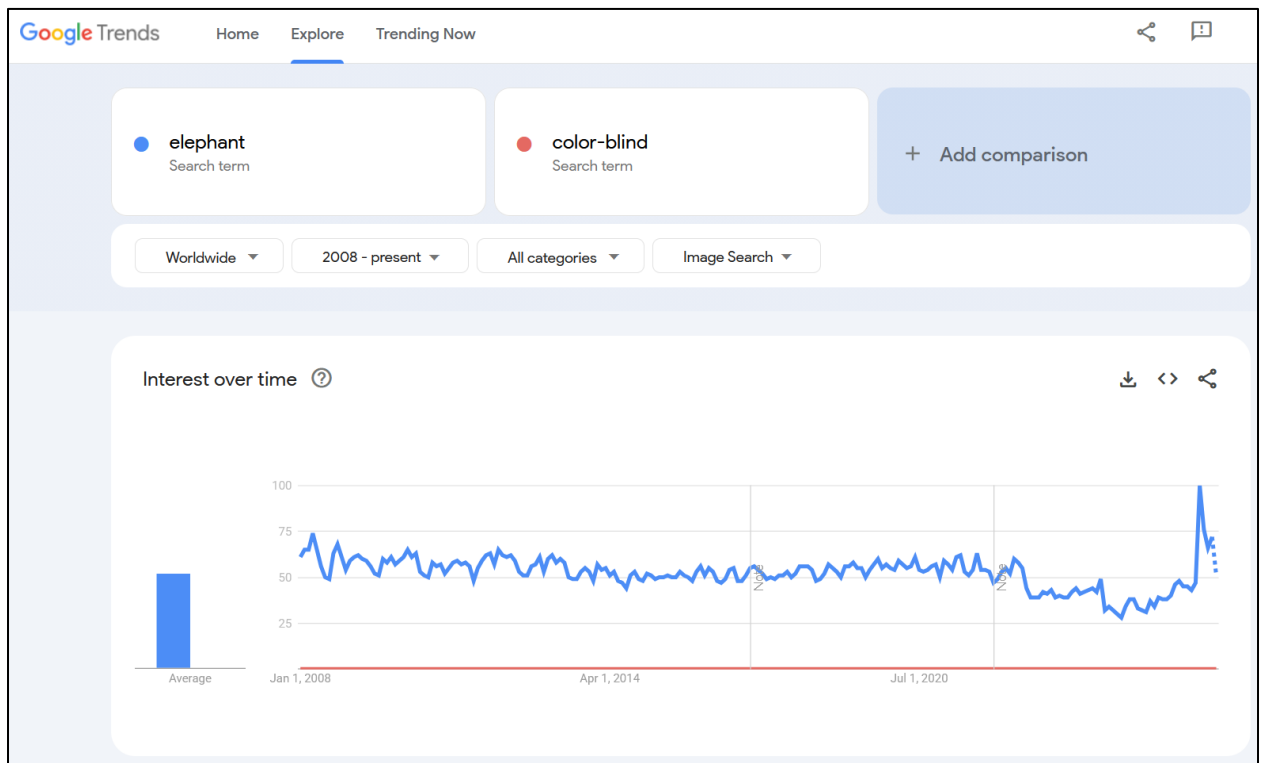
Any duration
Any time
Any quality
All videos
Any source
Advanced Search

About 52,200,000 results (0.18s)

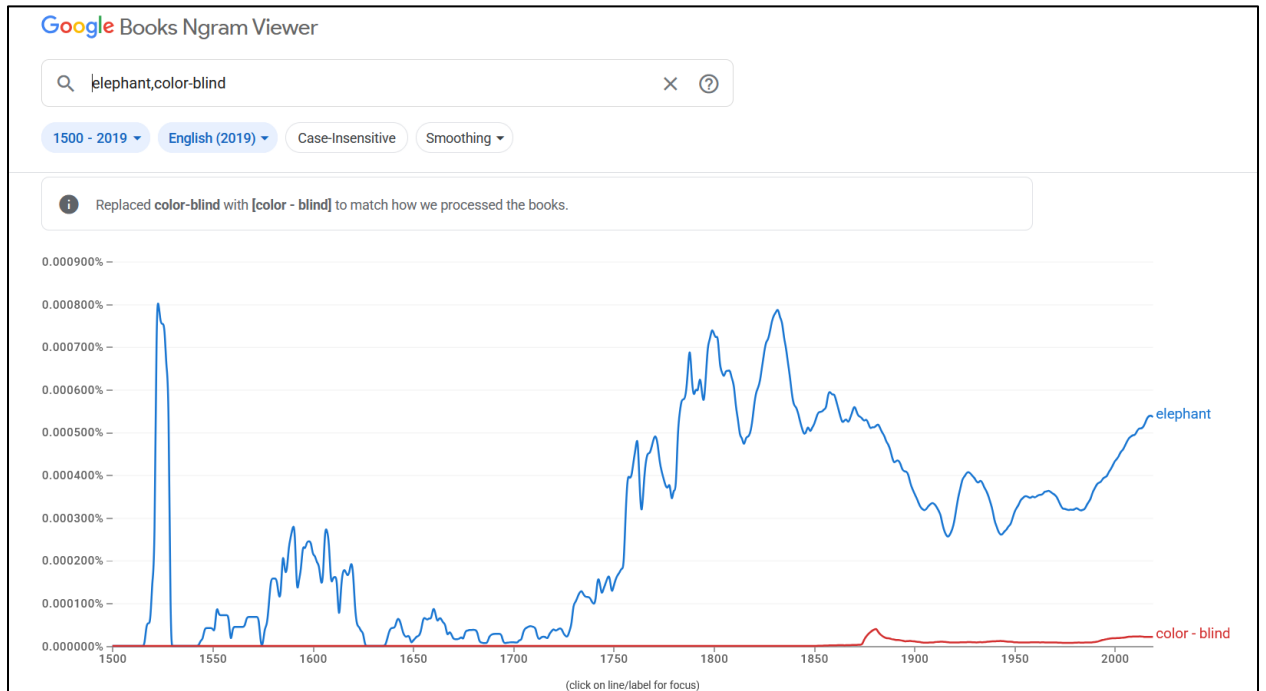
Trends: Web Search



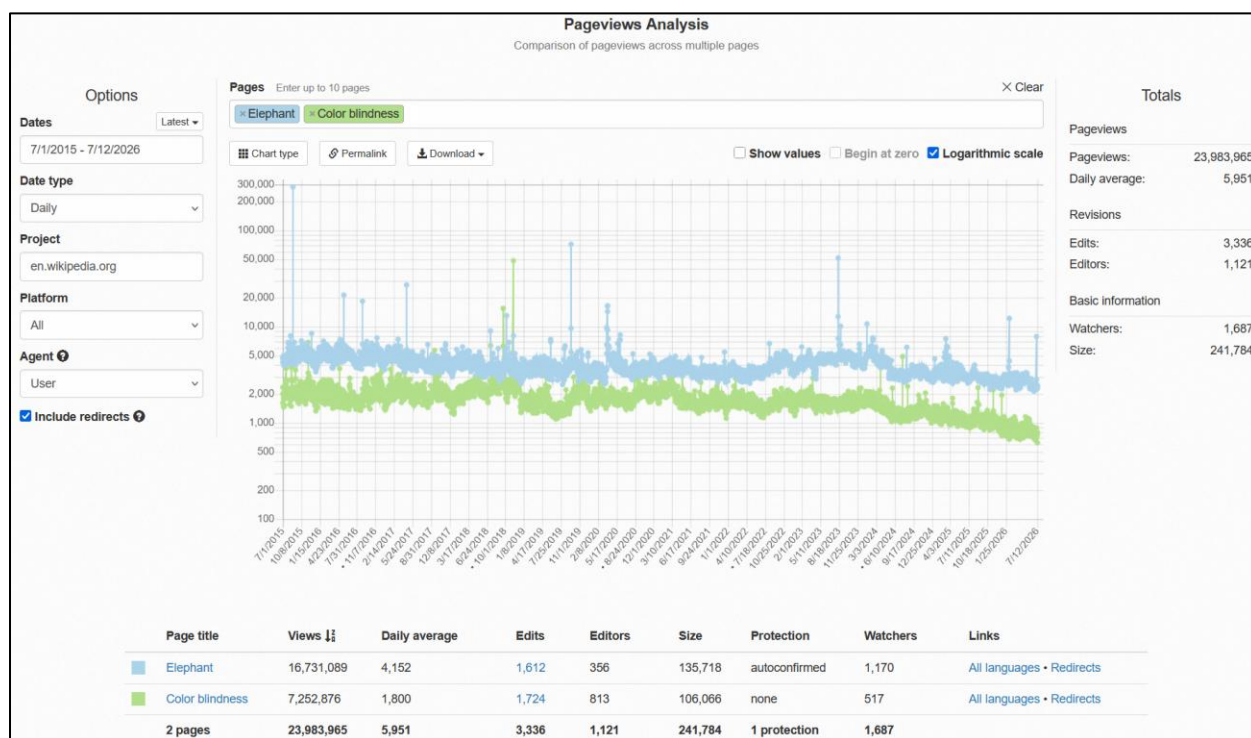
Trends: Image Search



Ngram Viewer



Wikipedia¹⁸



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Completeness:

Accessibility and disability-related emojis form an open-ended category rather than a closed, finite set. It is impossible to achieve total completeness due to the vast spectrum of human conditions. While this proposal does not complete a set, it significantly expands representation within a major, unaddressed area.

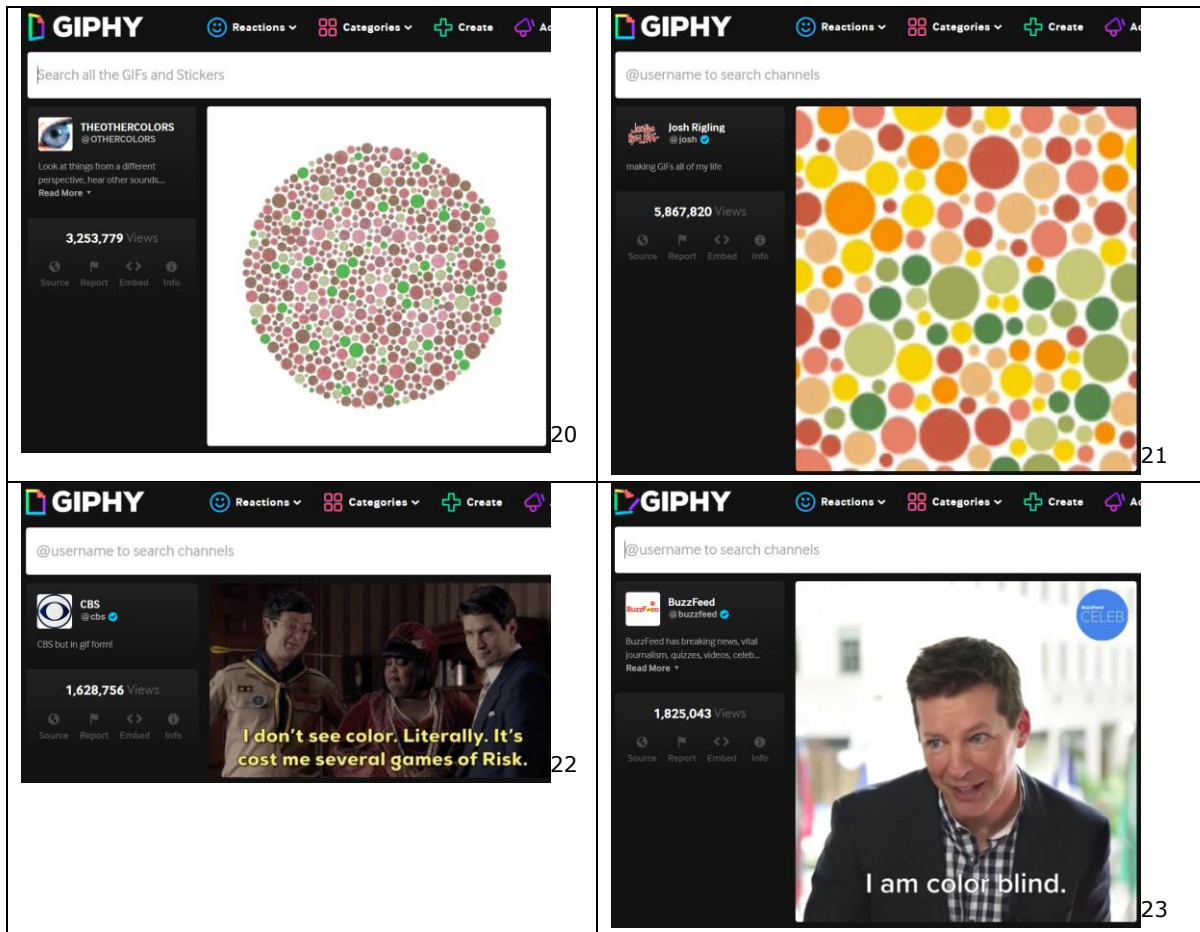
Compatibility:

Although a colorblindness symbol is not directly implemented into iMessage, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and so on, it is implemented into GIPHY that is in turn implemented into other

¹⁸ While general-interest reference terms like 'Elephant' maintain a higher volume of passive page-views, the 'Color blindness' article demonstrates significantly higher user engagement. Despite having fewer total views, 'Color blindness' features more total edits and more than double the number of unique editors compared to the article for 'Elephant.' This disproportionately high editor-to-view ratio highlights a strong baseline of users who would actively adopt this emoji.

¹⁹ Ironically, the Pageviews Analysis tool provided by Wikipedia is itself not colorblind-friendly, presenting its data in a fixed blue-green palette with no tool to change colors.

messaging apps and social media. These assets are used millions of times.



Although some GIFs expressing colorblindness are animated clips from television and film, others are simply static images that have no reason to be animated. This shows how users are already using workarounds. There is already an existing need to express the idea of 'colorblindness' that would be filled by this emoji.

²⁰ GIPHY image [GIF]. GIPHY. <https://giphy.com/gifs/OTHERCOLORS-test-diagnostic-color-blindness-HhLcGOKJhCe7WpJzHp>

²¹ GIPHY image [GIF]. GIPHY. <https://giphy.com/gifs/color-pattern-dots-xT9IggqAhBgZPrsjoQ>

²² GIPHY image [GIF]. GIPHY. <https://giphy.com/gifs/cbs-ghosts-ghostscbs-cbs-U9JFQ05V3OCWKjLbct>

²³ GIPHY image [GIF]. GIPHY. <https://giphy.com/gifs/buzzfeed-buzzfeed-celeb-bff-best-friends-Vlqmx9ilKiSlrKgjs>

Factors for Exclusion

Already represented:

The concept of color vision deficiency cannot be reliably represented by existing emoji combinations. While a user might attempt to signify red-green colorblindness (deuteranopia/protanopia) by pairing the Red Large Circle and Green Large Circle ( ) characters, this sequence carries overwhelming cultural baggage. It may be mistaken for either Christmas decorations or traffic signals. An unambiguous symbol is required to communicate color vision deficiency precisely.

Overly specific:

This proposal does not advocate for unique, hyper-specific characters representing every individual variation of color vision deficiency (such as distinct icons for deuteranopia, protanopia, or tritanopia). Instead, it provides a single, universal umbrella symbol to represent the entire concept of colorblindness.

Furthermore, a built-in technical limitation prevents this character from establishing a precedent for overly specific sub-variants. Because all Unicode emoji submissions require a functional black-and-white image, any future proposals attempting to distinguish between specific medical subtypes would be impossible. These distinctions rely strictly on color contrast (e.g., red-green versus blue-yellow), and would not make sense in a monochrome character format.

Standardizing a single, abstract pattern allows the committee to introduce a universal signifier while eliminating the possibility of a cascade of specialized, color-dependent character submissions.

Open-ended:

The list of accessibility symbols is inherently open-ended, and introducing a character for "colorblind-friendly" content will make a valid systemic concern. Expanding this category will establish a clear precedent that could lead to an ongoing demand for specialized accessibility icons.

For example, logical arguments could easily be made for:

- A "left-handed-friendly" symbol to represent physical tools or environments optimized for left-handed individuals.
- An "epilepsy-friendly" symbol to denote multimedia content free from flashing lights.
- A "screen-reader-friendly" symbol to signify digital documents that have been optimized with alt-text.

The Unicode Standard cannot realistically map every real-world accessibility need. The potential for a continuous influx of related proposals is a realistic objection against introducing this character.

Transient:

The proposed character is not transient. Color vision deficiency is a long-standing, globally recognized clinical condition first systematically analyzed and diagnosed over two centuries ago by John Dalton in 1794²⁴, ensuring it is not a temporary modern trend.

Looking toward future developments, biomedical advancements such as retinal gene therapy offer a theoretical long-term cure²⁵. A future without individuals experiencing color vision deficiency would mean there is ultimately no need for a corresponding emoji.

Unfortunately, these medical procedures remain highly complex, invasive, and financially prohibitive. For much of the global population, gene therapy is not a viable option. It may take centuries for gene therapy to advance to a point where eradication is both economical and universal. Consequently, the necessity for digital accessibility tools remains an immediate requirement for hundreds of millions of people.

Justified by an existing emoji:

While the existence of other accessibility emojis clearly paved the way for this concept, this proposal does not rely on them as its only justification. This proposed character is not a mere thematic copycat. It stands on its own practical merit, using the existing accessibility suite as a logical precedent rather than its only defense.

²⁴ Flück, D. (2006, April 9). *Daltonism – Named after John Dalton*. Colblindor. <https://www.color-blindness.com/2006/04/09/daltonism-named-after-john-dalton/>

²⁵ Genomics Education Programme. (2022, October 21). *Achromatopsia gene therapy partially restores children's colour vision*. NHS England. <https://www.genomicseducation.hee.nhs.uk/blog/achromatopsia-gene-therapy-partially-restores-childrens-colour-vision/>

Other Information

Intellectual Property

The official Ishihara test plates are copyrighted²⁶. To avoid any intellectual property issues, the proposed emoji design must not use numbers or letters inside of the circle. Instead, the design should utilize one of the following two approaches:

- A Generic Geometric Shape: Normal-vision users see a simple shape (like a checkmark) inside the dots. Users with color vision deficiency can still recognize the overall plate design and understand its meaning even if they cannot see the hidden shape.
- No Shape: The design uses a randomized dot pattern with no hidden elements at all, similar to a scientific control plate. Everyone sees the pattern the exact same way, and it more closely matches the function of the black and white version.

Suggested Color Palette:

As there are many types of color vision deficiency, there are likewise many types of test images. For this proposal, Deuteranomaly is used as this is the most common form. People with other forms of color vision deficiency besides Deuteranomaly can still identify this as meaning 'colorblind'. The test for Deuteranomaly uses red, warm brown, khaki, and olive green dots.

About the Author:

Jack ElFrink has a professional background in Information and Communication Technology, a field deeply concerned with effective data visualization, including making charts and graphs colorblind-friendly. Currently working as an educator, he assists fellow teachers in creating accessible learning materials for the classroom.

He is colorblind.

²⁶ Copyright law is notoriously annoying, and since Shinobu Ishihara died in 1963, his original work is in a weird legal gray zone: In Life + 50 countries, his work entered the public domain in 2014. In Life + 70 countries (like the UK and EU), it won't enter the public domain until 2034.