

Emojis Can Endanger Your Career

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Jeopardize /'jepər,dīz/ put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure.
Example: A poor diet can jeopardize your health.
2. Competence /'kämpədəns/ the ability to do something successfully or efficiently.
Example: The intern shows a high level of technical competence.
3. Warmth /wôrmTH/ friendliness, affection, kindness
Example: The newly appointed director enjoyed the warmth of their praise.
4. Contrary /'käntrērē/ opposite in nature, direction, or meaning.
Example: It doesn't seem outdated to me; on the contrary, I think it's rather fashionable.
5. Perception /pər'sepSH(ə)n/ the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.
Example: Kate's perception of the issue is quite different.



Research suggests that using smiley face emojis in work emails could **jeopardize** your career. Researchers from a university in Israel report that people using emojis in work-related mail are likely to be considered stupid and unprofessional. The researchers conducted experiments on 549 professionals from 29 different countries to measure their reaction to emojis.

The professionals had to "evaluate both the **competence** and **warmth**" of the e-mail writer. The researchers said: "Our findings provide first-time evidence that, **contrary** to actual smiles, smileys do not increase **perceptions** of warmth and actually decrease perceptions of competence." She added: "In formal business emails, a smiley is not a smile."

Other research shows that emojis are often misunderstood. This is related to how the reader or viewer understands the emoji. In other cases, technological problems could mean that an emoji typed by the writer is shown differently in the email read by the reader.

This is because the writer and reader use different software or operating systems for their devices. Emojis started in Japan in the late 1990s. They quickly became very popular. More than six billion of them are sent every day around the world. There is even a World Emoji Day, which is on July the 17th every year.

DISCUSSION

1. Why is it wrong to use emojis in work emails?
2. When can you use smiley face emojis?
3. Why do you think emojis are misunderstood?
4. Why are emojis so popular?
5. Do you have a favorite emoji?
6. What do you think people would do on World Emoji Day?