READING

An article

1 ☆ **Look at the photo. What emotions/actions do the emojis show?** _____

2 ☆ **Read the article and complete the paragraphs (A–D) with the headings (1–4).**

1 From Japan to the world
2 The most popular symbol
3 Japan's alphabets
4 A world language

3 ☆ **Find adverbs in the article with the meanings below.**

1 in a good way (paragraph A) *well*
2 with no problems (paragraph B) _____
3 very much (paragraph C) _____
4 not how you expect (paragraph D) _____

4 ☆☆ **Read the article again. Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)? Correct the false sentences.**

1 For verb endings like *-ing*, Japanese people use the *hiragana* alphabet.
_____ T

2 *Katakana* has got the most symbols.
_____

3 You can't use more than one alphabet in one text.
_____

4 The first emoji didn't express many different feelings.
_____

5 In paragraph C, 'ones' refers to 'people'.
_____

6 The writer hopes emoji will become an international language in the future.
_____

5 ☆☆☆ **Answer the questions in your own words.**

1 Which emoji do you use most often? Why?
_____
_____

2 Apart from using emoji, how else can we show emotions in text messages?
_____
_____

3 Is the alphabet in your language different from English? How?
_____
_____



Emoji

the world's most popular alphabet?

A _____

Did you know that the Japanese language has three alphabets? One alphabet, *katakana*, is mostly for foreign words, like 'pizza' (ピザ). This alphabet has 48 characters, or letters and symbols. Another alphabet, *hiragana*, is usually for grammar words, like the word ending 'した', which changes a verb into the past tense – similar to *-ed* in English. *Hiragana* has 46 characters. A third alphabet, *kanji*, has about 50,000 different symbols. It is usually for verbs, adjectives and nouns. For example, 山 is the Japanese symbol for 'mountain'. Often a piece of writing contains all three alphabets at the same time! Learning written Japanese well can be difficult!

B _____

But there is another kind of 'alphabet' from Japan, which everyone can easily recognise. You probably use it a lot when you communicate with friends. It doesn't use letters, it uses emoji, which translates as 'picture character' in English. We can all recognise emoji when we see them. They show a huge range of feelings or actions, from love and sadness to dancing and waving.

C _____



The Japanese have used emoji since 1999. Of course, these early emoji were very simple and people could only use them to show basic emotions. Since then, they have become more and more popular around the world and the number of emoji symbols has greatly increased – now there are nearly 3,000 official ones. Everyone can understand emoji – it doesn't matter which country they are from.

D _____

And what is the most common emoji symbol that people use? Surprisingly, it is not a smiling face or a heart. It is the 'tears of joy' emoji, showing a face laughing and crying happily. Perhaps in the future, they will create an emoji for every possible emotion and we will be able to communicate with anyone in the world, only by using emoji symbols!

LIVEWORKSHEETS