



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Using Smilies](http://codex.wordpress.org/Using_Smilies)

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Using Smilies

How Does WordPress Handle Smileys?

By default, in version 1.5, WordPress will automatically convert text smileys into graphic images when your post is displayed.

You can type this ; -) in your post and see this 😊 when you preview or publish your post.

Background: What Are Smileys?

Smileys are also known as "emoticons" and are used to convey emotions when writing. They are a great way to brighten up your posts. 😊

Text smileys are created by typing two or more punctuation marks into your post:

```
; - ) winks  
: - ) grins  
: - ( frowns, and  
% \ confusion
```

To help you learn more about Emoticons, [Wikipedia - Emoticons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticons) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticons>) may help.

To Turn off Graphic Smileys

If you turn off graphic smileys, whatever you type in plain text will remain, and be displayed, as plain text.

1. Go to your Admin Panel
2. Choose *Options > Writing*
3. In the *Formatting* section, **uncheck** the box for "*Convert emoticons like :-) and :-P to graphics on display*"

Turning off emoticons means that when you type this ; -) in your post you will see this ; -) when you preview or publish your post. It doesn't stop people from using emoticons as plain text.

Troubleshooting Smileys

What Text Do I Type to Make Smileys?

For a complete listing of available smileys, and the images that appear when you type them, have a look at the [List of Emoticons](#).

Here are a few examples that are supported by Wordpress:

```
:)      => 'icon_smile.gif',
:D      => 'icon_biggrin.gif',
:-D     => 'icon_biggrin.gif',
:grin:  => 'icon_biggrin.gif',
:)      => 'icon_smile.gif',
:-)     => 'icon_smile.gif',
:smile: => 'icon_smile.gif',
```

Why Doesn't it Work?

Smileys may have been disabled by your Wordpress admin.

Smileys may have been deleted from `/wp-images/smilies`.

Why Doesn't it Work for Me?

If the smileys work for others at your site but not for you:

Type a space before and after the smiley text. That will prevent smileys being accidentally included in the text around them. (Here a blush would be appropriate: 😊)

Don't include quotes before and after the smiley text, even if they have them on the [List of Emoticons](#) page. (Here an eyeroll would be appropriate: 🙄)

Where Are My Smiley Images Kept?

Emoticon image graphics are found in the `/wp-images/smilies` directory.

Notice that smileys is spelled with 'eys' in this documentation and the directory name for Smileys is '*smilies*', spelled with 'ies'.

How Can I Have Different Smiley Images Appear?

This is a safe way:

1. Find your smiley image files in the `/wp-images/smilies` directory and back them up to another directory
2. Note the names of each smiley file. Your files must match these names and should be in the same 'gif' image format.
3. For predictable behavior, the image size should match.
4. Upload your new files to the `/wp-images/smilies` directory with an FTP program.

If you are up to hacking code:

If you really must change the file names of the images, edit the file that refers to these images, '**vars.php**', situated in the `/wp-includes/` directory. Follow all precautions when "hacking code".

Why are my Smiley Images Blank?

If you recently uploaded the images, it could be that the images have been uploaded in **ASCII** format by your FTP program. Re-upload the smileys ensuring that they are transferred in **BINARY** format.

Some FTP programs have an **auto-detect** setting which will upload files in the correct format without user intervention. If you have such a setting, turn it on.