

Emoji (Unicode)

```
(?:[*-]|\\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff]|\\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff]|\\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
(?:	start of a non-capturing group
[*-]	any of: ■—■
	OR — try the alternative
\\u	escape \\u
d83c	literal text "d83c"
[\\udf00-\\udfff]	any of: "u", "d", "f", "O", 0–\\
	OR — try the alternative
\\u	escape \\u
d83d	literal text "d83d"
[\\udc00-\\udfff]	any of: "u", "d", "c", "O", 0–\\, "f"
	OR — try the alternative
\\u	escape \\u
d83e	literal text "d83e"
[\\udd00-\\uddfff]	any of: "u", "d", "O", 0–\\, "f"
)	end of group

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r"(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])", value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])").matcher(value).matches();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])");</pre>
Go	<pre>regexp.MustCompile(`(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])`).MatchString(value)</pre>
Ruby	<pre>/(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])/ .match?(value)</pre>
PHP	<pre>preg_match('~(?:[*-] \\ud83c[\\udf00-\\udfff] \\ud83d[\\udc00-\\udfff] \\ud83e[\\udd00-\\uddfff])~', \$value);</pre>

Common pitfalls

- **Not anchored.** Without `^` and `$` this can match a substring anywhere in the input — add anchors if you need the whole value to conform.
- **Escape it correctly per language.** In Java and JavaScript strings each backslash must be doubled (`\\d`); in Python, Go, and C# use raw/verbatim strings so the backslashes survive.
- **Validate beyond format.** Matching the format doesn't guarantee the value is real. Confirm the emoji (unicode) against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.