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Why is snapchat not showing my friends bitmojis

We live in the future, people. Flying cars and robot butlers might not exist just yet, but Snapchat has brought us something better: tiny, 3D avatars to project onto the real world. (Well, the real world as seen by your phone screen). If your friends have been snapping up a storm lately, you may be wondering how to know if you have 3D Bitmoji on Snapchat, too. Sure, you could ask someone for help, but do you really want to out yourself as a second-rate Snapchatter? A Bitmoji bumpkin? Probably not. Luckily for you, I have answers. On the off chance that you don't know what Bitmojis are, allow me to explain. Once upon a time, humans were forced to communicate with mere words and emoticons. While this got the job done, conversations lacked a certain pizzazz. Finally, in 2014, Bitmojis came to save the day. Billed as "your personal emoji," these little cartoon characters are meant to look like their users. You can customize pretty much everything about them, from hair color to face shape, and once you're satisfied with your likeness, you copy and paste stickers featuring the character via text or Snapchat. Until now, Bitmoji were decidedly 2D — unmoving cartoons drawn in a bunch of different settings. But on Wednesday, Snap Inc. changed the game entirely when it announced the release of Bitmoji World Lenses. The new feature lets you project animated, 3D Bitmoji onto your surroundings, so you can watch your avatar drink coffee on the lip of your real-life coffee mug or skateboard across your actual desk. I repeat: We are in the future. I, for one, am all about it. So how can you get in on the addictive new feature? Step one is figuring out whether you have 3D Bitmoji in the first place. Here's how to make sure. Bring Up Lenses With your phone on rear-facing camera mode — that bit is important — tap and hold on the center of the screen. This should bring up the list of lenses. Find The Bitmoji The 3D Bitmoji should be the first lenses in the rotation. Keep your camera focused and swipe through them to see if your cartoon avatar pops up. If it does, get to snapping. If it doesn't, there are a few ways you can troubleshoot. Update The Apps First, as always, make sure you have the latest version of Snapchat and the Bitmoji app if you want to check out new features. (The same is true of any app.) To update the apps, head to the App or Play Store. Tap on Updates (or My Apps for Android) in the far right corner. You'll see a list of available updates; if that includes Snapchat, go ahead and follow the prompts to download the new version. Currently, the newest version of Snapchat is 10.17.1.0. For Bitmoji, it's 10.16. Over time, though, that might change. To view the most recent update, just check out the information section of each app's page in the App Store. Once you have the most recent version, try out the feature again. Link Your Bitmoji Account If it's still not working, pause for a second. Snapchat needs access to your Bitmoji account in order for the new feature to work — are they actually linked? To find out, open Snapchat and navigate to your profile page. Is your Bitmoji head smack dab in the middle of your Snapcode? Great! Your accounts are linked. If not, select "create Bitmoji" and follow the prompts from there. If you need help, you can find a guide to linking the accounts on Snapchat's website. (All this assumes, of course, that you have the Bitmoji app downloaded in the first place.) There you have it! That's all you need to do to find out if you have the new 3D Bitmoji. Once you have the tiny avatars up and running, it's up to you to make the best of the augmented reality we're now living in. Emojis provide us with a whole new world of expressiveness when we're online, but they aren't exactly personal. Fortunately, Bitmoji allows us to customize our characters to create incredibly realistic depictions of ourselves to share with our friends and family — and without losing any of the appeal of emoji. So, what exactly is a Bitmoji, and how can you use them? We have everything you'll need to know in this article. Bitmoji is a secondary social media app that people use to create little cartoon versions of themselves, which they then use on their various social media accounts. It's a very simple service: You simply create an avatar of yourself, and assemble various comics, GIFs, expressions, and reactions that use this avatar. Then, when you are communicating with someone in a chat or email, you can use your Bitmoji to express yourself. That's it! Over time, Bitmoji have become popular with people who have tired of the generalized emojis available on their apps, and want something more interesting and personal. The company provides various updates and themes, like special options for sports events or holidays, that you can occasionally switch between as you desire. Otherwise, part of the charm is the simple focus — this is Bitmoji's only service, and there are very few add-ons. How did Bitmoji begin? While it is currently owned by Snapchat, Bitmoji was originally developed by the company Bitstrips, from Toronto, Canada. Founded in 2007, Bitstrips was focused on creating digital comic strips that featured personalized avatars, a concept very similar to Bitmoji. Once emojis became more popular and found their place online in various chat apps, Bitstrips realized the potential. The company created a separate app called Bitmoji in 2014, designed to specialize in these emojis. The big apps were quick to notice the potential in Bitmoji: In 2016, Snapchat's parent company, Snap Inc., bought Bitstrips, shut it down, and began running Bitmoji as a sole division. Where are Bitmoji used? While Snapchat may own the company, you can still use Bitmoji on a variety of platforms. They are available on Facebook, Gboard, iMessage, and even work-oriented apps like Slack. Bitmoji are also Chrome-friendly and work with Gmail as well. There are also a few unique uses for Bitmoji that Snapchat is trying out, such as Bitmoji for games. Note that you do not need Snapchat to use Bitmoji. It's a separate app that you can download for iOS or Android. However, if you do use Bitmoji with Snapchat, you gain access to Friendmoji, which are personalized little Bitmoji between you and a close friend, which is neat. How do I create my own Bitmoji? Download the app, and get started making an avatar. If you've created a personalized digital avatar for other platforms, this process will be familiar for you. You pick out a skin shade, hair color, hair style, jawline, chin, nose, eyes, eyebrows, and so on. One reason that Bitmoji are so popular is that the app provides a lot of options for personalization in this area, so it's worth some time to get right: A common refrain from successful customization is, "How does your Bitmoji look so much like you?" From there, you have a whole lot of options to customize your Bitmoji stickers and comics. You can dress them in various outfits, put them in a variety of scenes, create innumerable stickers with different postures and expressions, and so on (you can also switch the overall style). Then, when you're ready, pick one and paste it all over your social media app of choice to add flavor to a conversation. The ultimate goal is to create a Bitmoji "keyboard" with all your favorite Bitmoji stickers on it, so you can quickly bring it up and use them in the middle of a conversation. Bitmoji offers an option to enable this keyboard in its settings. Remember, you can always go back and change your Bitmoji if you are unhappy with the results. Sharing Bitmoji To share Bitmoji, you can either enable the Bitmoji keyboard within your messaging application of choice or share stickers directly from the app itself. To send emojis in-app, just open the Bitmoji app, tap on the sticker you'd like to send, and select your messaging app of choice from the pop-up list. You'll enter the recipient on the next screen, and that's it. Sharing within your favorite chat or text app requires you to enable the keyboard in your settings. The one-time activation means you can then send Bitmoji from all your communication apps. Are there any costs or risks associated with Bitmoji? Bitmoji charges a small amount (usually around \$1) for individual clothing packs, especially ones that celebrate specific people, teams, holidays, or special events. But other than that, Bitmoji is free to use at this time. After installing the Bitmoji keyboard, an app alerts you immediately about the potential risks involved. The warnings will pop up on your screen — you'll have to acknowledge them before you continue the process, so you can't plead ignorance. The warning messages include one ensuring that you're well aware that Bitmoji needs a live server connection to upload your personalized stickers. It also has to monitor, from a broad perspective, what you're doing in your social media apps. That said, Bitmoji won't be able to read anything you type physically. The keyboard simply needs to be connected to your app in order to work properly. Having that live connection to your data could potentially leave your personal information exposed, which may allow hackers to steal your information. Currently, there haven't been any Bitmoji-related mass-hacks. With that in mind, these warnings shouldn't keep you up at night. According to its privacy policy, Bitmoji may collect additional information from Snap-related apps. If you're using Snapchat or its sister apps, Bitmoji may monitor your behavior data and save it. Apps like Snapchat could then later choose to sell that information to third parties. Of course, there are many apps that have been doing that for years, so it's definitely up to you whether you're comfortable swapping some of your privacy for Bitmoji. Editors' Recommendations How does one find friends on Snapchat? Assuming this is your first time on the popular social network, you're probably eager to build up your friends list and explore all the advantages therein. After all, a person isn't really your friend until you're both connected via every single social media platform there is (we're kidding, of course). Thankfully, adding friends on Snapchat is as easy as doing so on social platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, assuming you have the usernames of the people you're trying to add, their number, or their unique Snapcode on hand. Below is a comprehensive guide on how to add friends to Snapchat and follow their every Snapchat move — you'll know when your friends are at a concert, at a bar with coworkers, or simply when they've cooked a meal that really needs to be shared publicly. Adding friends via username If you have a friend who already has a Snapchat account, you can quickly use him or her to your friends list provide you know his or her Snapchat username (everyone has one). Simply open Snapchat, tap the ghost icon at the top of the screen, and select Add Friends. On the next screen, you'll want to select the first option, Add by Username. Just type your friend's username into the window, and their account should pop up. Then, tap +Add and — voila — he or she will be added to your friends list. You can snap them or open a chat window from here, or select them from your friends list when sending a snap. Adding friends via Contacts If you don't know your friends' Snapchat usernames, you can always add them using their phone number via your Contacts list (provided they are on Snapchat). Again, you'll want to tap the ghost icon at the top of your screen, followed by Add Friends. On the next screen, select Add from Contacts. This will bring up a list of Snapchatters in your Contacts list that aren't already on your Snapchat friends list. Scroll down or search for your friend by name, and hit +Add to add them to your list of friends. Add friends via Snapcode Ever heard of a QR code? Well, Snapcodes are basically the same thing, except they only exist within the app. Your Snapcode is represented by a unique pattern of black dots within the yellow ghost box that's associated with your profile. To add someone using the Snapcode feature, you'll need to take a picture of their Snapcode — either by using your Camera app or by taking a snap and downloading it to your phone — and keep it in your camera roll. Afterward, follow the same steps outlined above, but when you get to the Add Friends menu, select Add by Snapcode. Once there, select the photo that has your friend's Snapcode in it, and he or she will automatically be added to your friends list. Usernames also appear directly below Snapcodes, however, so it may be easier to simply punch in your friend's username instead. Adding nearby friends How do you become Snapchat buddies with strangers? Selecting Add Nearby from the Add Friends menu will open a screen where anyone nearby can see your username and add you as a friend. The only caveat is that they also need to be accessing the Add Nearby screen on Snapchat when you do. Beware: Anyone who's close in proximity can add you as a friend this way as well. Other methods The Snapchat team is nothing if not thorough. Users can also add friends via the Quick Add function, which appears on the Add Friends menu below the other options. Friends and acquaintances will appear in the Quick Add menu based on a variety of factors and connections, like if you share a mutual friend on Snapchat or if they've been recently added to your phone's contact list, though the exact method remains unclear. Additionally, you can click the ghost icon at the top of the default screen and select Added Me to accept a friend request. The next screen will display all users who've added you as a friend, but haven't yet received confirmation. Here, you can also share your username via messaging, email, or specific social platforms — like Twitter — by selecting Share Username. Editors' Recommendations why are my friends bitmojis not showing

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