

Snapchat removes filter amid claims of racial insensitivity

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Snapchat has removed a filter for photos that some say promoted racist Asian stereotypes.

The social media app's [filters](#), also called lenses, allow users to change their appearance with silly faces or morph themselves into cartoonish animals and other characters.

A filter that Snapchat says was inspired by Japanese animation placed slanted eyes on a user's face. The filter was quickly derided by Snapchat users on Twitter . One Asian-American user, Grace Sparapani, tells The Associated Press in a Twitter message she was "shocked by how much it looked like the classic cartoon caricatures of Asians—squinty eyes and buckteeth."

Los Angeles-based Snapchat tells USA Today the filter has been taken down and won't be used again. The company says its filters "are meant to be playful and never to offend."

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