

# We Need A Game Show With A Lightning Round Question: "Happiness or Pleasure? - Why?"

Post by "Cassius" of February 5, 2023 at 7:36 AM

I agree with Godfrey's "heart" on Don's post. Thinking it through in such detail like that really brings out the differences in the words.

## [Quote from Don](#)

Being happy in the moment is different than happiness, the state of living a happy life overall.

And when said like that it jumps out even more that "being happy" is a a specific type of feeling of pleasure, while "the state of living a happy life overall" is a definition suitable for use by Merriam Webster but not a specific feeling at all. What I want is my life is feeling, not to be of assistance to Merriam Webster.

## [Quote from Don](#)

Looked at it this way, "happy" is a mushy, ill-defined word that can take on any number of meanings in context. It's like the English word "love"... "I love you" to "I love ice cream." At least Greek had different words for different forms of "love."

And yes I think that's one of the real take-aways of the discussion too.

My current thoughts bouncing of Don't post include:

Pleasure is a feeling of which one aspect is time over which pleasure is experienced. If you are alive you can immediately identify with what is being discussed, and although there are many types of pleasures, you know confidently whether you are feeling it or not, and whether you are feeling it or not is almost an "automatic" function of your being a living being. The definition we give in our minds is assigned mostly by nature.

"Happy" can be viewed as a type of pleasure, but it's more general use is more like the word "American." A useful word, but very slippery, and with a very amorphous and changing definition that is highly subjective and not nearly as automatic. The definition we give it in our minds is assigned almost totally by conceptual thinking.

None of which really lends itself to a pithy reply to a quick challenge in a zoom meeting, but thinking it through begins to help to get there.