

# Choice & Avoidance: towards a better translation for avoidance

Post by “Julia” of August 15, 2024 at 5:46 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

sort of synonyms for "enjoy"

That's not quite it...? 🤔 To ensure I don't still talk at cross purposes, here is what I'm looking for, expressed using a spontaneous analogy:

I'm a swimmer in the ocean. At any one time I am either swimming towards a life buoy or I am swimming away from a shark. I call life buoys "pleasure". I call sharks "pain". They are my reference points, which makes them important, and so I have a special word for each. But I do *not* have a special word for "currently swimming to a life buoy" (I hence called it: to play). I also do *not* have a special word for "currently swimming away from a shark" (I hence called it: to avoid).

At the same time, another type of swimmer exhibits a total disregard for sharks and life buoys. Instead, their aim is to always swim towards the sun. They call the sun "virtue" and swimming towards it they call "to work". Every other direction they call "vice", and swimming not-towards-the-sun they call "to play". As such, they *do* have a special word for both their two reference points *and* their two directions of swimming in relation to these reference points.

I also want two more special words, one for each of my two directions of swimming!

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I promise I'm not being deliberately obtuse here! It's just that words are my units of meaning and I need them so I can make sense of the world... ☐