

What place does "simple" have in Epicureanism?

Post by "Cassius" of January 23, 2025 at 2:04 PM

Good point as to the context of the statement in the letter to Herodotus. The word "simple" has a huge number of connotations and it would be good (as stated in the first post) to flesh out which ones are and are not relevant to Epicurus. I think a lot of people tend to associate the word first and foremost with something rhyming with ascetic, but that's not at all the only option. [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)

adjective

simpler, simplest.

1. easy to understand, deal with, use, etc.: simple tools.

a simple matter;

simple tools.

Synonyms: [lucid](#), [unmistakable](#), [understandable](#), [intelligible](#), [clear](#)

2. not elaborate or artificial; [plain](#):

a simple style.

Synonyms: [unembellished](#), [neat](#), [natural](#)

3. not ornate or luxurious; unadorned:

a simple gown.

4. [unaffected](#); [unassuming](#); [modest](#):

a simple manner.

5. not complicated:

a simple design.

6. not complex or compound; [single](#)

7. occurring or considered alone; [mere](#); [bare](#):

the simple truth;

a simple fact.

8. free of deceit or guile; [sincere](#); [unconditional](#):

a frank, simple answer.

Synonyms: [ingenuous](#), [guileless](#), [artless](#)

9. common or ordinary:

a simple soldier.

10. not grand or sophisticated; [unpretentious](#):

a simple way of life.

11. humble or lowly:

simple folk.

12. inconsequential or rudimentary.

Synonyms: [unnecessary](#), [nonessential](#), [trivial](#), [trifling](#)

13. [unlearned](#); [ignorant](#).

Synonyms: [stupid](#), [untutored](#)

14. lacking mental acuteness or sense:

a simple way of thinking.

15. [unsophisticated](#); [naive](#); [credulous](#).

16. [simpleminded](#).

17. *Chemistry.*

1. composed of only one substance or element:

a simple substance.

2. not mixed.

18. *Botany*. not divided into parts: a simple stem.

a simple leaf;

a simple stem.

19. *Zoology*. not compound:

a simple ascidian.

20. *Music*. uncompounded or without overtones; single:

simple tone.

21. *Grammar*. having only the head without modifying elements included: Compare [complete \(def 5 \)](#).

The simple subject of "The dappled pony gazed over the fence" is "pony."

22. (of a verb tense) consisting of a main verb with no auxiliaries, as *takes* (simple present) or *stood* (simple past) ([compound](#)).

23. *Mathematics*. [linear \(def 8 \)](#).

24. *Optics*. (of a lens) having two optical surfaces only.