

Epicurus' Hierarchy of Needs

Post by “Rolf” of June 3, 2025 at 9:19 AM

How does the word "luxurious/luxuries" instead of "extravagant/extravagances" sound? Food is a necessary desire; ice cream is luxurious. Friendship is necessary for happiness; romance is a luxury.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

even then I doubt you can avoid explaining or giving examples

That said, I agree with this. No word or term is going to be able to fully put across the meaning that Epicurus intended by itself - but that's okay. For me, a term is more for my own use and understanding, and for reference in discussion with others who are familiar with Epicurean philosophy. For those who are not familiar, we must of course explain what we mean, just as we must often first explain what we mean by "pleasure". I'm still partial to using the NN, NU, UU abbreviations for internal discussions, simply because they're relatively neutral and clear if you know what they stand for.