

What Is Happiness? How Does Our Conception of It Derive From Eudaemonia and Felicitas? Should Happiness Be The Goal of Life?

Post by "Cassius" of December 22, 2025 at 8:02 AM

Seems like I recall some variation of felicity being used by Jefferson but I'll have to look further (these two charts are chatgpt):

English Word	Meaning in English	Connection to Latin felix
felicity	intense happiness; a state of blessedness or good fortune	Directly from Latin felicitas ("happiness, good fortune")
felicitous	well-chosen, apt, pleasing; producing happiness	From felicitas via French, meaning "fortunate" or "happy"
felicitate	to congratulate; to make happy (archaic)	From Latin felicitare ("to make happy")
felicitation	congratulations; an expression of happiness or good wishes	From felicitationem ("a making happy")
felice	(rare, archaic) happy, fortunate	Direct borrowing from Latin felix
felicific	(philosophy) tending to produce happiness	From felix + -fic ("making happy")
felicific calculus	Bentham's method for measuring happiness (utilitarianism)	Same root