

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 8:06 AM

Feline is not related to Latin felix ("happy, fortunate, blessed").

It comes from a completely different Latin word: fēlēs (genitive: fēlis), which means "cat" or "wildcat." Etymology Comparison

Word	Latin Root	Meaning of Root	English Descendants
feline	fēlēs / fēlis	"cat"	feline, felid, felinity, feliform, etc.
felicity etc.	felix (stem felic-)	"happy, fortunate, blessed"	felicity, felicitous, felicitate, etc.

Key Points

- The similarity in spelling (feli- vs feli-) is purely coincidental — a case of false cognate or folk etymology.
- Fēlēs (cat) is an ancient Latin word with no known connection to happiness or blessing. Its origins are uncertain, possibly onomatopoeic or from an Indo-European root related to "wild animal."
- Felix (happy) is thought to derive from an earlier root meaning "fertile" or "productive" (related to fēcundus "fertile" and fēcundus "fruitful"), which aligns with ideas of good fortune or blessing.