

'Symbol' (pub. 06.03.18-15:07). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-division-iii-substantial-study-logic-chapter-vi-essence-reasoning-4>.

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**Term:** Symbol

**Quote:** It seems certainly the truest statement for most languages to say that a *symbol* is a conventional sign which being attached to an object signifies that that object has certain characters. But a symbol, in itself, is a mere dream; it does not show what it is talking about. It needs to be connected with its object. For that purpose, an *index* is indispensable. No other kind of sign will answer the purpose. That a word cannot in strictness of speech be an index is evident from this, that a word is general - it occurs often, and every time it occurs, it is the same word, and if it has any meaning *as a word*, it has the same meaning every time it occurs; while an index is essentially an affair of here and now. A word is the same word every time it occurs and if it has any meaning has always the same meaning; but *this* and *that* have different applications every time they occur.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1893-1895 [c.]). *Division III. Substantial Study of Logic. Chapter VI. The Essence of Reasoning*. MS [R] 409.

**References:** MS 409:95-96

**Date of** 1893-1895 [c.]

**Quote:**

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**Annotations**

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