

'Thirdness' (pub. 16.03.18-11:43). 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-firstness-secondness-thirdness-and-reducibility-fourthness-r-8>.

---

**Term:** Thirdness

**Quote:** ...*Thirdness*, or that which is such as it is in bringing a second into relation to a third. That thirdness cannot be reduced to any combination of secondnesses follows at once from the fact that combination is itself a triadic relation; so that a combination of secondnesses would itself involve an irreducible thirdness. On the other hand, [there] can be no irreducible Fourthness or mode of being defined by a relation between more than three correlates, since it is easily shown that every such relation is definable as a triadic relation among triadic relations.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904). *Firstness, Secondness, Thirdness, and the Reducibility of Fourthness [R]*. MS [R] 914.

**References:** MS [R] 914:5

**Date of** 1904

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-firstness-secondness-thirdness-and-reducibility-fourthness-r-8>