

'Index' (pub. 05.05.13-10:18). 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-index-exact-logic>.

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**Term:** Index

**Quote:** **Index** (in exact logic). A sign, or representation, which refers to its object not so much because of any similarity or analogy with it, nor because it is associated with general characters which that object happens to possess, as because it is in dynamical (including spatial) connection both with the individual object, on the one hand, and with the senses or memory of the person for whom it serves as a sign, on the other hand.

[—]

Indices may be distinguished from other signs, or representations, by three characteristic marks: first, that they have no significant resemblance to their objects; second, that they refer to individuals, single units, single collections of units, or single continua; third, that they direct the attention to their objects by blind compulsion. But it would be difficult if not impossible, to instance an absolutely pure index, or to find any sign absolutely devoid of the indexical quality. Psychologically, the action of indices depends upon association by contiguity, and not upon association by resemblance or upon intellectual operations.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1901). Index (in exact logic). In J. M. Baldwin (Ed.), *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology, Vol. I* (pp. 531-532). London: Macmillan and Co.

**References:** DPP1, 531-2; CP 2.305

**Date of** 1901

**Quote:**

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