

'Retroduction' (pub. 12.03.13-19:12). 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-letter-j-h-kehler-5>.

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**Term:** Retroduction

**Quote:** I am unable yet quite to *prove* that the three kinds of reasoning I mean are the *only* kinds of sound reasoning; though I can show reason to think that it can be proved, and *very strong* probable reasons for thinking that there is no fourth kind. I call the three, Deduction, Induction, and Retroduction; though the last only is a word invented by me.

A scientific inquiry must usually, if not always, begin with retroduction. An Induction can hardly be sound or at least is to be suspected usually, unless it has been preceded by a Retroductive reasoning to the same general effect.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1911). *Letter to J. H. Kehler*. L [R] 231.

**References:** NEM 3:177-178

**Date of** 1911

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letter-j-h-kehler-5>