

'Symbol' (pub. 05.05.13-12:01). 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-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-6>.

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**Term:** Symbol

**Quote:** A symbol is defined as a sign which becomes such by virtue of the fact that it is interpreted as such. The signification of a complex symbol is determined by certain rules of syntax which are part of its meaning. A simple symbol is interpreted to signify what it does from some accidental circumstance or series of circumstances, which the history of any word illustrates. [–] A symbol is adapted to fulfill the function of a sign simply by the fact that it does fulfill it; that is, that it is so understood. It is, therefore, what it is understood to be. [—] Hardly any symbol directly signifies the characters it signifies; for whatever it signifies it signifies by its power of determining another sign signifying the same character.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904 [c.]). *New Elements (Kaina stoiceia)*. MS [R] 517.

**References:** EP 2:317

**Date of** 1904 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-6>