

'Real Definition' (pub. 20.11.15-09:19). 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-sketch-dichotomic-mathematics-3>.

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**Term:** Real Definition

**Quote:** A *Definition* is either *Nominal* or *Real*. [—] A *Real Definition* analyzes a conception. As Aristotle well says (and his authority is well-nigh absolute upon a question of logical terminology), a definition asserts the existence of nothing. A definition would consist of two members, of which the first should declare that any object to which the *definitum*, or defined term, should be applicable would possess the characters involved in the definition; while the second should declare that to any object which should possess those characters the *definitum* would be applicable. And any proposition consisting of two members of this description and really contributing to the development of the thought would be a Real Definition.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904). *Sketch of Dichotomic Mathematics*. MS [R] 4.

**References:** NEM 4:285

**Date of** 1904

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-sketch-dichotomic-mathematics-3>