

'Habit' (pub. 20.10.15-12:36). 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-some-consequences-four-incapacities-7>.

---

**Term:** Habit

**Quote:** Attention produces effects upon the nervous system. These effects are habits, or nervous associations. A habit arises, when, having had the sensation of performing a certain act, *m*, on several occasions *a*, *b*, *c*, we come to do it upon every occurrence of the general event, *l*, of which *a*, *b* and *c* are special cases. That is to say, by the cognition that

Every case of *a*, *b*, or *c*, is a case of *m*,  
is determined the cognition that

Every case of *l* is a case of *m*.  
Thus the formation of a habit is an induction, and is therefore necessarily connected with attention or abstraction. Voluntary actions result from the sensations produced by habits, as instinctive actions result from our original nature.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1868). Some Consequences of Four Incapacities. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 2, 140-157.

**References:** W 2:232-3; CP 5.297

**Date of** 1868

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-some-consequences-four-incapacities-7>