

'Index' (pub. 21.10.15-10:59). 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-elementary-account-logic-relatives-0>.

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**Term:** Index

**Quote:** Signs, or representations, are of three kinds: Icons, Indices, and Tokens. [—]

Indices are signs which stand for their objects in consequence of a real relation to them. An index is a sign which stands for its object in consequence of having a real relation to it. A pointing finger is its type. Of this sort are all natural signs and physical symptoms. The index has no generality in itself. It does not depend on a mental association, but upon a real reaction between the mind and the external world at the moment when the index acts. The index asserts nothing; it only says "There!" It takes hold of our eyes, as it were, and forcibly directs them to a particular object, and there it stops.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1886). *An Elementary Account of the Logic of Relatives*. MS [R] 537; MS [W] 585.

**References:** W 5:379

**Date of** 1886

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-elementary-account-logic-relatives-0>