

'External' (pub. 06.09.15-12:27). 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-fourth-curiosity-5>.

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**Term:** External

**Quote:** Any object whose attributes, *i.e.* all that may truly be predicated, or asserted, of it, will, and always would, remain exactly what they are, unchanged, though you or I or any man or men should think or should have thought as variously as you please, I term *external*, in contradistinction to *mental*. [—]

The main difference between the *external*, as I use the term, and the *real*, as I employ *that* term, seems to be that the question whether anything is *external* or not is the question of what a word or other symbol or concept (for thinking proper is always conducted in general signs of some sort) is, I say, a question of what a symbol *signifies*; while the question of whether anything is *real* or is a *figment* is the question what a word or other symbol or concept *denotes*.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1907). *The Fourth Curiosity*. MS [R] 200.

**References:** CP 8.327-8

**Date of** 1907

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-fourth-curiosity-5>