

'Habit' (pub. 06.09.15-18:49). 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-letters-f-woods-4>.

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**Term:** Habit

**Quote:** A conditional proposition, - say "If A, then B" is equivalent to saying that "Any state of things in which A should be true, *would* (within limits) *be* a state of things in which B is true." It is therefore essentially an assertion of a *general* nature, the statement of a "*would-be*." But when the antecedent supposes an *existential* fact to be different from what it actually is or was, the conditional proposition does not accurately state anything; and if it conveys any meaning, i.e. if it is calculated to produce any state of mind, in a person who trusts in it, it must be that it establishes a *habit* in that mind, using the word "habit" in the original sense, as meaning only that the person or thing that has the habit, *would* behave (or usually behave) in a certain way *whenever* a certain occasion should arise.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (nd). *Letters to F. A. Woods*.

**References:** CP 8.380

**Date of** 1913

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-f-woods-4>