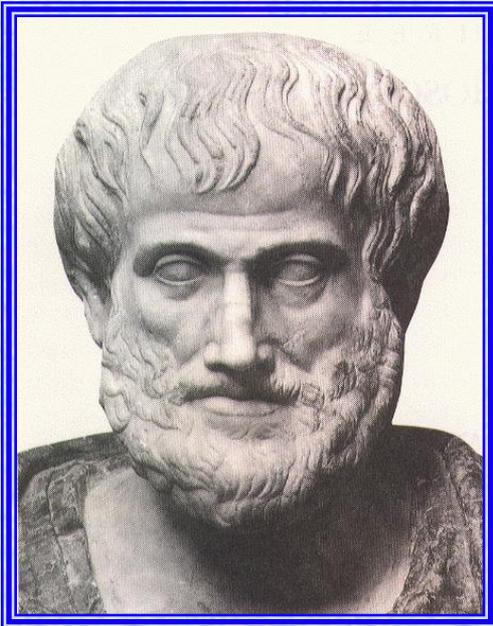


# Definitions & Contexts: Adequacy and Proper Form



Aristotle

Old Greek guy who taught us  
how to define stuff.

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*Kent State University*

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# Sample Definition

**Subject field: Internet**

**Term: account**

**Definition: A login directory restricted for the use of a particular person, usually password-protected, that provides access to a system.**

# Sample Definition

## account

**A login directory (1) restricted for the use of a particular person, (2) usually password-protected, (3) that provides access to a system.**

**Blue = broader concept**

**Wine = distinguishing characteristics**

# An Implied Sentence

**Implied subject:**      **Implied verb (copula):**



~~[An account is]~~ **A login directory (1) restricted for the use of a particular person, (2) usually password-protected, (3) that provides access to a system.**

*(The definition itself is a predicate.)*

# Components of the Definition

- ◆ **Subject (the designation)**
  - The term as an implied subject. There is no real subject..
- ◆ **Copula**
  - Used in place of the implied verb “is”
  - Colon, dash, carriage return (in text)
- ◆ **Predicate**
  - Statement of genus & listing of essential and delimiting characteristics
- ◆ **Orthographic rules (ASTM used to differ from ISO)**
  - Starts with the appropriate article (a, an, the, or maybe *any*) – vs. none in ISO
  - Starts with a capital letter – ends with period (typical American style)
  - No capital, no period – ISO style
  - Don't mix the two styles – use one consistently!

# Definition Format Rules

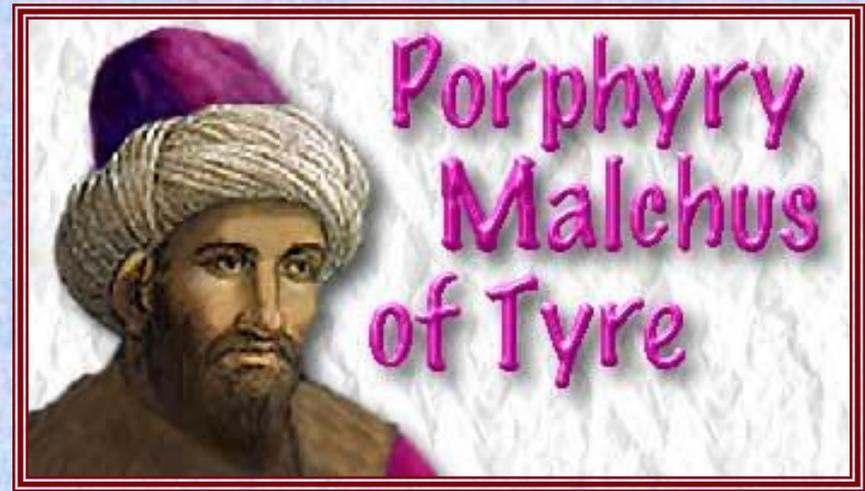
- ◆ State the term in the term field.
- ◆ **DO NOT REPEAT THE TERM IN THE DEFINITION!** (in English; German style does repeat the term)
- ◆ The term is an *implied subject*.
- ◆ **DO NOT USE THE VERB** [is/ist/es, etc.] . The verb “is” is implied (copula).
- ◆ Start with the appropriate article (a, an, the, or maybe *any*) – or leave it out.
- ◆ Start with a capital letter & end with a period.
- ◆ [Or no capital letter, no period.]
- ◆ [But be consistent in one system.]

# Form of Definitions

- ◆ **A concept is always defined with reference to a specific subject field.**
- ◆ **The definition consists of 1) the statement of a superordinate or broader concept, followed by 2) a statement of the characteristics that differentiate that concept from similar concepts as viewed in a concept system.**

Porphyry:

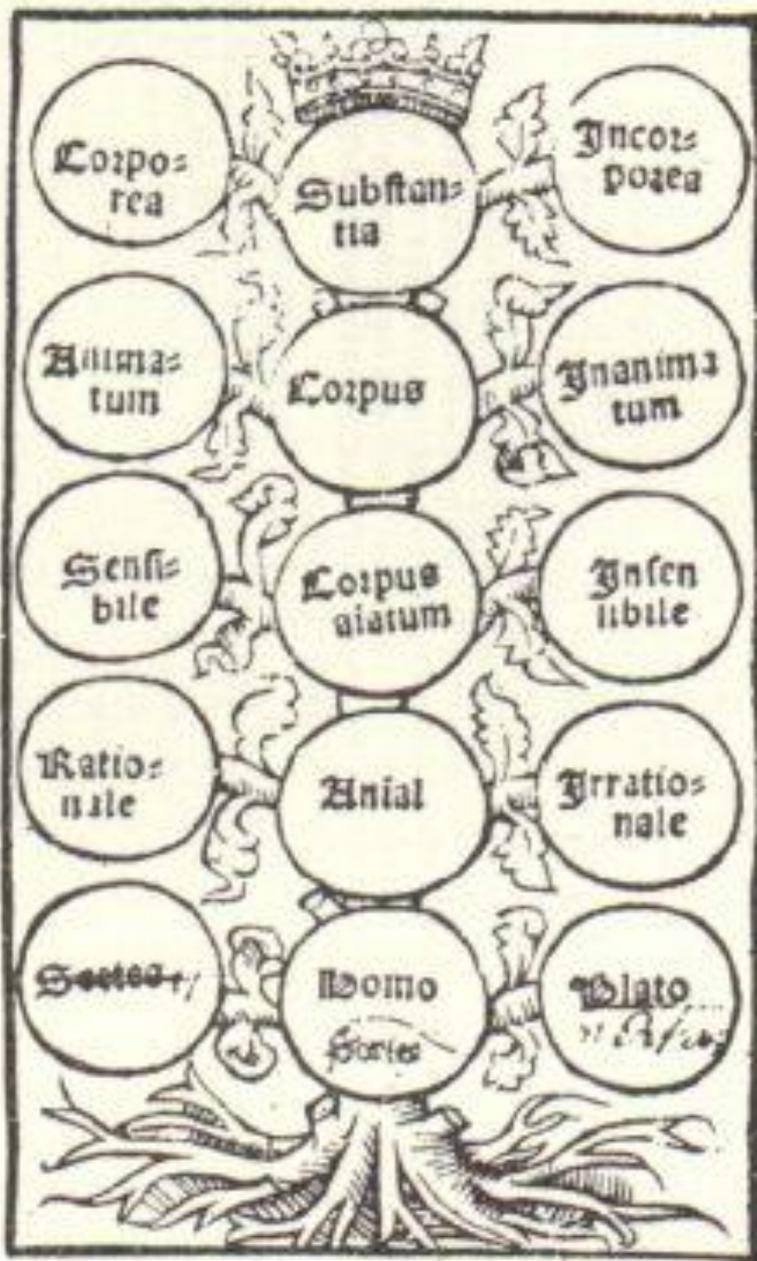
Old Phoenician / Roman guy  
who clarified Aristotle and  
taught us how to classify  
stuff.



## Features of Definitions

- ◆ The statement of a genus (A broader or superordinate concept)
- ◆ The statement of differentiating characteristics

# Porphyry's Tree



- ◆ Ontology
- ◆ Epistemology
- ◆ Definition by classification
- ◆ Genus to species
- ◆ Species to individual

*Supreme genus:*

**Substance**

*Differentiae:*

**material**

**immaterial**

*Subordinate genera:*

**Body**

**Spirit**

*Differentiae:*

**animate**

**inanimate**

*Subordinate genera:*

**Living**

**Mineral**

*Differentiae:*

**sensitive**

**insensitive**

*Proximate genera:*

**Animal**

**Plant**

*Differentiae:*

**rational**

**irrational**

*Species:*

**Human**

**Beast**

*Individuals:*

**Socrates**

**Plato**

**Aristotle**

**etc.**

# How the tree works

## ◆ What is Plato?

- An individual male human, who was a Greek philosopher.

## ◆ What is a human?

- A rational animal. (An animal **that is rational.**)

## ◆ What is an animal?

- A sentient living being. (A living being **that is sentient.**)

# Term + Definition Form

	<b>term:</b>	<b>account</b>
	<b>subject field:</b>	<b>internet</b>
<b>§ Definition §</b>	<b>genus (superordinate concept):</b>	<b>A login directory</b>
	<b>characteris- tics:</b>	<b>restricted for the use of a particular person, usually password- protected, that provides access to a system.</b>

# Tautology Errors

- ◆ The definition repeats the components of the term:
  - “zu inclusion” – The inclusion of “zu”
  - (in German) the insertion of the particle “zu” between a separable prefix and the base verb in order to form the infinitive, instead of placing the particle before the entire verb, which is the customary position

# Tautologies

- ◆ A complementary entry mirrors the definition in a related entry. (Term “A” is a function of term “B”; term “B” is the complementary function of term “A”)
  - transitive verb: verb that takes a direct object
  - direct object: object associated with a transitive verb

# Properties vs. Characteristics

	<p>object/visual representation</p>  <p>one of the set of all lead pencils (<i>extension</i>)</p>	<p>concept:            designation          abstraction        (term):          based on:            lead pencil</p>
category	property	characteristic
level of abstraction	concreteness made of a long, thin piece of graphite	concreteness graphite core
composition	wood casing surrounds graphite	graphite core is encased in wood
colour	casing is yellow	casing may be any colour
composition	at one end there is an eraser	one end may have an eraser
shape	other end sharpened to a point	one end may be sharpened to a point
usage	graphite&casing sharpened for use	graphite & casing sharpened for use
medium	graphite is writing medium	graphite is writing medium
function	used for writing or making marks	used for making marks

# Essential or Delimiting Characteristics

- ◆ **Essential characteristics:** those characteristics that distinguish the subordinate concept from the superordinate concept (parent).
- ◆ **Delimiting characteristics:** those characteristics that distinguish a concept from other parallel concepts (coordinate concepts, siblings).

# Fixing a definition

- ◆ Son resortes helicoidales sujetos a fuerzas de torsión en las extremidades, a diferencia de los anteriores que soportaban cargas a compresión. Usualmente al igual que los resortes de extensión son de espiras cerradas, es decir que no hay espacio entre espiras al igual que sucede con un resorte de extensión, aunque en ocasiones, se quiere evitar los esfuerzos de fricción por ello se deja un espacio entre espiras. Existen del tipo de cuerpo singular y doble (doble torsión). Tienen extremidades configuradas para aplicar torsión de una manera conveniente al cuerpo enrollado del resorte. Estas extremidades ultimadamente conectan una fuerza distante del eje del cuerpo enrollado, para aplicar un torque.

# Criteria for Contexts

- ◆ Contains the term itself
- ◆ Contains discourse elements that provide cognitive clues to the meaning of the term
- ◆ Contains collocational information on term usage in context

# “Rules” for Contexts

- ◆ Must contain the term.
- ◆ And that’s it!
  - Any syntactical form, punctuation, etc., but generally: start with a capital, end with a period or ellipsis ...
  - No set length
  - Defining, explanatory, and associative types

# Other rules

- ◆ Always indicate the subject field
- ◆ **Always indicate your responsibility name**
- ◆ Don't capitalize terms unless they are always capitalized.
- ◆ Capitalize the first word of contexts.
- ◆ Put a period at the end or an ellipsis, if it's a fragment
- ◆ Make sure that definitions match the concept and match the part of speech.
- ◆ Watch out for unrelated homographs.

This one is good

検体  
 効果的(こうかてき)な薬物(やくぶつ)  
 攻撃性  
 刺激  
 脂肪  
 重量挙げ  
 生体異物(せいたいいぶつ)  
 束状帯(そくじょうたい)  
 尿検体  
 副作用  
 副腎(ふくじん)  
 副腎髓質(ふくじん ずいしつ)  
 副腎皮質(ふくじん ひしつ)  
 網状層(もうじょうそう)

Entry number: 144

Subject: Medical

Graphic2:



🇯🇵 Japanese

Term: 検体

SourceID: [http://www2.alc.co.jp/ejr/index.php?word\\_in=urine+specimen&word\\_in2=%82%A9%82%AB%82%AD%82%AF%82%B1&word\\_in3=PVawEWi72JXCKoa0Je](http://www2.alc.co.jp/ejr/index.php?word_in=urine+specimen&word_in2=%82%A9%82%AB%82%AD%82%AF%82%B1&word_in3=PVawEWi72JXCKoa0Je)

Definition: 化学反応などの手段で検査・分析しようとする物

Context: 血液・尿などの検体検査結果は、完全文で述べるのではなく、項目と結果を次々に羅列していきます。

EN English

Term: sample

PartOfSpeech: Noun

GrammaticalNumber: Singular

TermType: FullForm

TermStatus: AllowedTerm

Definition: Urine or blood taken from an athlete for the purpose of analysis to determine the presence of banned substances.

検体 / 尿検体 /

Good entry, but the definitions have too many sentences. Put extra stuff in notes.

オキシトシン  
 外因性  
 生体異物  
 脳下垂体  
 憑依

Entry number: 104

Subject: Medical

 Japanese

Term: オキシトシン

**Definition:** 9個のアミノ酸からなる環状ポリペプチド(分子量1,007, 半減期1~4分)で、視床下部室傍核で生成され、ニューロフィジンと結合して、下垂体後葉に貯蔵されている。生理作用:子宮収縮作用。子宮のオキシトシン感受性はエストロゲンにより高まり、プロゲステロンにより抑制される。射乳作用:乳腺周囲の筋上性細胞を収縮させ、乳汁分泌を生じさせる(射乳)。分泌調節:胎児の産道通過が刺激となり分泌される。乳房や生殖器への刺激によっても分泌される。

**Context:** 計画分娩(陣痛誘発)により、オキシトシンの点滴開始からまもなく強烈な陣痛が始まり、その痛みは間断なくひっきりなしに襲いかかった。

 English

Term: oxytocin

**Definition:** A hormone made in the brain that plays a role in childbirth and lactation by causing muscles to contract in the uterus (womb) and the mammary glands in the breast and also has a role in pair bonding, mate-guarding, and social memory. Oxytocin is a peptide (a compound consisting of 2 or more amino acids) that is secreted by the [hypothalamus](#) and transported to the posterior lobe of the [pituitary gland](#) at the base of the brain. Oxytocin is related to another hormone called vasopressin.

**Context:** Hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction (HPV) is an adaptive mechanism unique to the pulmonary circulation that allows redirection of blood flow to alveoli with higher oxygen tension, thereby reducing ventilation/perfusion mismatch.

 German

Term: Oxytocin

A Z sek4

Project: Untitled.xdp

オキシトシン

Corrected English definition, but the English context is a problem  
 –the term doesn't appear; it does appear in the Japanese.

オキシトシン  
 外因性  
 生体異物  
 脳下垂体  
 憑依

Entry number: 104

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Term: オキシトシン

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**Note:** Oxytocin is a peptide (a compound consisting of 2 or more amino acids) that is secreted by the and transported to the posterior lobe of the [pituitary gland](#) at the base of the brain. Oxytocin is related to another hormone called vasopressin.

 German

Term: Oxytocin

A Z sek4

Project: Untitled.xdp

オキシトシン

# Fixing a definition

- ◆ **Definition:** Resorte helicoidal sujeto a fuerzas de torsión en las extremidades, a diferencia de los anteriores que soportaban cargas a compresión.
- ◆ **Note:** Usualmente al igual que los resortes de extensión son de espiras cerradas, es decir que no hay espacio entre espiras al igual que sucede con un resorte de extensión, aunque en ocasiones, se quiere evitar los esfuerzos de fricción por ello se deja un espacio entre espiras. Existen del tipo de cuerpo singular y doble (doble torsión). Tienen extremidades configuradas para aplicar torsión de una manera conveniente al cuerpo enrollado del resorte. Estas extremidades ultimadamente conectan una fuerza distante del eje del cuerpo enrollado, para aplicar un torque.

You could also use an Explanation for the extra info. Or just leave it out.

- bit
- call
- cat-5 ethernet cable
- curly bracket
- data
- electronic commerce
- format
- format
- invoke
- machine-readable
- message
- meter
- network computer system
- protocol stack
- schema
- socially sensitive issue

Project: Untitled.xdp

TermDel4 Ashok

Hit List Favouites Project

Entry number: 17  
 Subject: Hardware  
 Graphic:



G-Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category\\_5\\_cable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category_5_cable)

**EN English**

Definition: twisted pair cable type designed for high signal integrity

D-Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category\\_5\\_cable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category_5_cable)

Note: This type of cable is often used in structured cabling for computer networks such as Ethernet, and is also used to carry many other signals such as basic voice services, token ring, and ATM (at up to 155 Mbit/s, over short distances). Category 5 has been superseded by the Category 5e specification.

N-Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category\\_5\\_cable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category_5_cable)

Responsibility: Bagri

**cat-5 ethernet cable**

Part of Speech: noun

Grammatical Number: singular

Type: full form

Usage Register: technical

Context: When you connect a cat-5 ethernet cable to your computer, you effectively commit to taking part, with your computer, in a very special system. ...

You walk into a meeting room, and you are offered a thin cat-5 cable with a 10-base T connector.

C-Source: Berners-Lee termlist

Related Term: ethernet cable, cat-5 cable

MCLS

Synonyms are hidden in the “Related Term” field.  
 Add them as term groups.



We have thousands of black squirrels in Kent.

