

**Exercise 2.1.** Based on Aristotle’s description, which of the following are propositions? Justify your answer. If you have difficulty with a particular item, explain what the difficulty is.

- (a) Let there be light.
- (b) The number three.
- (c) A square has five sides.
- (d) Every coyote has four legs.
- (e) This sentence is false.

Aristotle begins *Prior Analytics* with “We must first state the subject of our inquiry and the faculty to which it belongs: its subject is demonstration and the faculty that carries it out demonstrative science” [?, p. 65] [?]. A key tool in the demonstration, i.e., verification, of a proposition is what has become known as a syllogism. “A deduction [syllogism] is speech in which, certain things having been supposed, something different from those supposed results of necessity because of their being so” [?, p. 66] [?]. Aristotle discusses several types of syllogisms or rules of inference, beginning with the “first figure” of term arrangements: “If  $A$  is predicated of all  $B$ , and  $B$  of all  $C$ ,  $A$  must be predicated of all  $C$ ” [?, p. 68]. We will call this “Aristotle’s first figure,” while  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  are called terms. A property or quality  $A$  predicated of all  $B$  means that every  $B$  has property  $A$ , or every  $B$  is an  $A$ . Let’s examine the use of this syllogism.

**Exercise 2.2.** Identify the terms  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  in the first figure for the statement: “Having four sides is predicated of every rectangle, and being a rectangle is predicated of every square.” What conclusion can be drawn from these premises? How can the statement “ $A$  is predicated of every  $B$ ” be written more directly beginning with “Every  $B \dots$ ”? How can “ $B$  is predicated of every  $C$ ” be written more directly beginning with “Every  $C \dots$ ”? Find a more direct statement (in the active voice) of Aristotle’s first figure using these simplifications. Rewrite “Having four sides is predicated of every rectangle, and being a rectangle is predicated of every square” using this reformulation.

**Exercise 2.3.** Let  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $C$  be terms in the sense of Aristotle. Consider the statements:

- (I) If  $C$  occurs, then  $B$  occurs; and if  $B$  occurs, then  $A$  occurs.
- (II) If  $C$  occurs, then  $A$  occurs.

Would you claim that (II) is a logical inference from (I)? If so, support your position using the work of Aristotle. If not, find a counter example. Would you claim that (I) is a logical inference from (II)? If so, support your position using the work of Aristotle. If not, find a counter example.