The Bourbaki Project

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Contents

Why

We want to communicate and remember.

Discussion

A *language* is a conventional correspondence of sounds to affections of mind. We deliberately leave the definition of *affections* vague. A *spoken word* is a succession of sounds. By using these sounds, our mind can communicate with other minds.

A *symbol* is a written mark. A *script* is a collection symbols called *letters*. In *phonetic* languages the letters correspond to sounds and rules for composing these letters into successions called written words. This succession of letters corresponds to a succession of sounds and so a written word corresponds to a spoken word. By making marks, we communicate with other minds—including our own—in the future.

To write this sheet, we use Latin letters arranged into written words which are meant to denote the spoken words of the English language. The written words on this page are several letters one after the other. For example, the word "word" is composed of the letters "w", "o", "r", "d".

These endeavors are at once obvious and remarkable. They are obvious by their prevalence, and remarkable by their success. We do not long forget the difficulty in communicating affections of the mind, however, and this leads us to be very particular about how we communicate throughout these sheets.

Latin letters

We will start by officially introducing the letters of the Latin language. These come in two kinds, or cases. The *lower case latin letters.*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \mathrm{a} & \mathrm{b} & \mathrm{c} & \mathrm{d} & \mathrm{e} & \mathrm{f} & \mathrm{g} & \mathrm{h} & \mathrm{i} \\ \mathrm{j} & \mathrm{k} & \mathrm{l} & \mathrm{m} & \mathrm{n} & \mathrm{o} & \mathrm{p} & \mathrm{q} & \mathrm{r} \\ \mathrm{s} & \mathrm{t} & \mathrm{u} & \mathrm{v} & \mathrm{w} & \mathrm{x} & \mathrm{y} & \mathrm{z} & \end{array}$$

And the *upper case latin letters.*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \mathrm{A} & \mathrm{B} & \mathrm{C} & \mathrm{D} & \mathrm{E} & \mathrm{F} & \mathrm{G} & \mathrm{H} & \mathrm{I} \\ \mathrm{J} & \mathrm{K} & \mathrm{L} & \mathrm{M} & \mathrm{N} & \mathrm{O} & \mathrm{P} & \mathrm{Q} & \mathrm{R} \\ \mathrm{S} & \mathrm{T} & \mathrm{U} & \mathrm{V} & \mathrm{W} & \mathrm{X} & \mathrm{Y} & \mathrm{Z} & \end{array}$$

So, A is the upper case of a, and a the lower case of A. Similarly with b and B, with c and C, and all the rest.

Arabic numerals

We also use the *Arabic numerals.*

$$0 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5 \quad 6 \quad 7 \quad 8 \quad 9$$

Other symbols

We also use the following symbols.

$$\prime \quad (\quad) \quad \{ \quad \} \quad \vee \quad \wedge \quad \neg \quad \forall \quad \exists \quad \longrightarrow \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad = \quad \in \quad \rightarrow \quad \sim$$

Letters (1) does not immediately need any sheet.

Letters (1) is immediately needed by:

Names (3)

Letters (1) gives the following terms.

language
affections
spoken word
symbol
script
letters
phonetic
lower case latin letters
upper case latin letters
Arabic numerals

Letters

Why

We want to talk and write about things.

Definition

We use the word *object* with its usual sense in the English language. Objects that we can touch we call *tangible*. Otherwise, we say that the object is *intangible*.

Examples

We pick up a pebble for an example of a tangible object. The pebble is an object. We can hold and touch it. And because we can touch it, the pebble is tangible.

We consider the color of the pebble as an example of an intangible object. The color is an object also, even though we can not hold it or touch it. Because we can not touch it, the color is intangible. These sheets discuss other intangible objects and little else besides.

Objects (2) does not immediately need any sheet.

Objects (2) is immediately needed by:

Definitions (13)

Names (3)

Objects (2) gives the following terms.

object
tangible
intangible

Objects

Why

We (still) want to talk and write about things.

Names

As we use sounds to speak about objects, we use symbols to write about objects. In these sheets, we will mostly use the upper and lower case latin letters to denote objects. We sometimes also use an *accent* $'$ or subscripts or superscripts. When we write the symbols we say that the composite symbol formed *denotes* the object. We call it the *name* of the object.

Since we use these same symbols for spoken words of the English language, we want to distinguish names from words. One idea is to box our names, and agree that everything in a box is a name, and that a name always denotes the object. For example, $\boxed{\text{A}}$ or $\boxed{\text{A'}}$ or $\boxed{\text{A}_0}$. The box works well to group the symbols and clarifies that $\boxed{\text{A}}\boxed{\text{A}}$ is different from $\boxed{\text{AA}}$. But experience shows that we need not use boxes.

We indicate a name for an object with italics. Instead of $\boxed{\text{A'}}$ we use A', instead of $\boxed{\text{A}_0}$ we use A_0. Experience shows that this subtlety is enough for clarity and it agrees with traditional and modern practice. Other examples include A'', A''', A'''', B, C, D, E, F, f, f' f_a.

No repetitions

We never use the same name to refer to two different objects. Using the same name for two different objects causes confusion. We make clear when we reuse symbols to mean different objects. We tend to introduce the names used at the beginning of a paragraph or section.

Names are objects

There is an odd aspect in these considerations. A may denote itself, that particular mark on the page. There is no helping it. As soon as we use some symbols to identify any object, these symbols can reference themselves.

An interpretation of this peculiarity is that names are objects. In other words, the name is an abstract object, it is that which we use to refer to another object. It is the thing pointing to another object. And the marks on the page which are meant to look similar are the several uses of a name.

Names as placeholders

We frequently use a name as a *placeholder*. In this case, we will say "let A denote an object". By this we mean that A is a name for an object, but we do not know what that object is. This is frequently useful when the arguments we will make do not depend upon the particular object considered. This practice is also old. Experience shows it is effective. As usual, it is best understood by example.

Names (3) immediately needs:

Letters (1)

Objects (2)

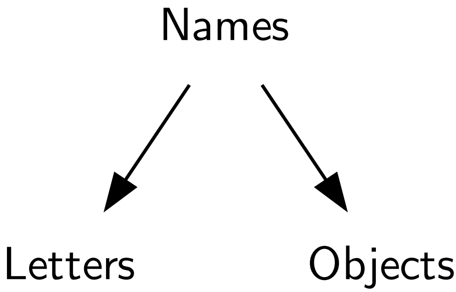
Names (3) is immediately needed by:

Identities (4)

Sets (5)

Names (3) gives the following terms.

accent
denotes
name
assertion
names
accent
letter
terms
relations
placeholder


Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We can give the same object two different names.

Definition

An object *is* itself. If the object denoted by one name is the same as the object denoted by a second name, then we say that the two names are *equal*. The object associated with a *name* is the *identity* of the name.

Let A denote an object and let B denote an object. Here we are using A and B as placeholders. They are names for objects, but we do not know—or care—which objects. We say "A equals B" as a shorthand for "the object denoted by A is the same as the object denoted by B". In other words, A and B are two names for the same object.

Symmetry

Let A denote an object and let B denote an object. "A equals B" means the same as "B equals A". The identity of the names is not dependent on the order in which the names are given. We call this the *symmetry of identity*. It means we can switch the spots of A and B and say the same thing. In other words, there are two ways to make the statement.

Reflexivity

Let A denote an object. Since every object is the same as itself, the object denoted by A is the same as the object denoted by A. We say "A equals A". In other words, every name equals itself. This fact is called the *reflexivity of identity*. A name is equal to itself because an object is itself.

Identities (4) immediately needs:

Names (3)

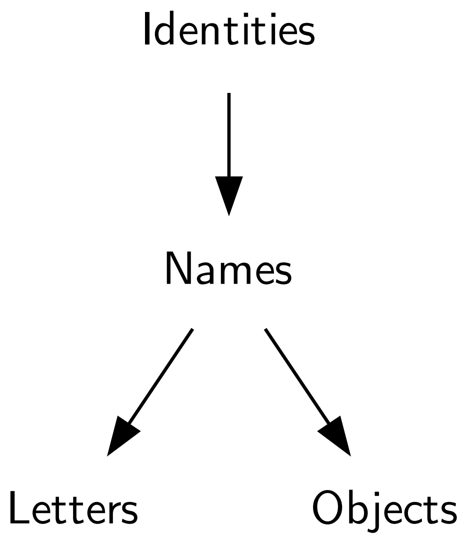
Identities (4) is immediately needed by:

Equation Solutions (??)

Statements (7)

Identities (4) gives the following terms.

is
equation
indeterminate
is
equal
name
identity
symmetry of identity
reflexivity of identity
reflexive
symmetric
transitive
equals
reflexive
symmetric
transitive


Identities
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want to talk about none, one, or several objects considered together, as an aggregate.

Definition

When we think of several objects considered as an intangible whole, or group, we call the intangible object which is the group a *set*. We say that these objects *belong* to the set. They are the set's *members* or *elements*. They are *in* the set.

Principle 1 (Existence of Sets)**.** *Intangible groups exist.*

A set may have other sets as its members. This is subtle but becomes familiar. We call a set which contains no objects *empty*. Otherwise we call a set *nonempty*.

Denoting a set

Let A denote a set. Then A is a name for an object. That object is a set. So A is a name for an object which is a grouping of other objects.

Belonging

Let a denote an object and A denote a set. So we are using the names a and A as placeholders for some object and some set, we do not particularly know which. Suppose though, that whatever this object and set are, it is the case that the object belongs to the set. In other words, the object is a member or an element of the set. We say “The object denoted by a belongs to the set denoted by A”.

Not symmetric

Notice that belonging is not symmetric. Saying “the object denoted by a belongs to the set denoted by A” does not mean the same as “the set denoted by A belongs to the object denoted by a” In fact, the latter sentence is nonsensical unless the object denoted by a is also a set.

Not transitive

Let a denote an object and let A and B both denote sets. If the object denoted by a is “a part of” a the set denoted by A, and the set denoted by A is “a part of” the set denoted by B, then usual English usage would suggest that a is “a part of” the set denoted by B. In other words, if a thing is a part of a second thing, and the second thing is part of a third thing, then the first thing is often said to be a part of the third thing. The relation of belonging is not quite this. If a thing is an element of a thing, that second thing may be an element of the third thing, but this does not mean that the the first thing is an element of the third thing.

Sets (5) immediately needs:

Names (3)

Sets (5) is immediately needed by:

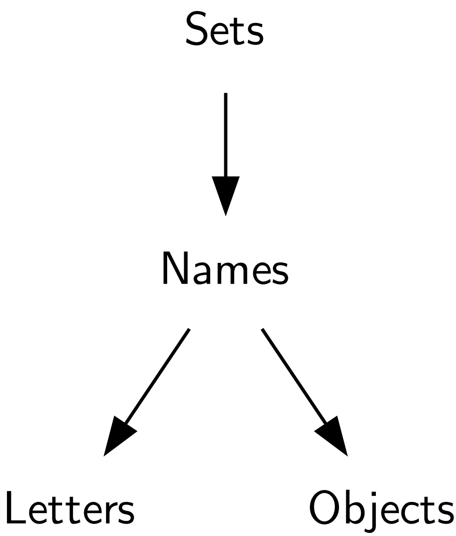
Geometry (26)

Set Examples (6)

Statements (7)

Sets (5) gives the following terms.

set
belong
members
elements
in
empty
nonempty


Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We give some examples of objects and sets.

Examples

For familiar examples, let us start with some tangible objects. Find, or call to mind, a deck of playing cards.

First, consider the set of all the cards. This set contains fifty-two elements. Second, consider the set of cards whose suit is hearts. This set contains thirteen elements: the ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, and king of hearts. Third, consider the set of twos. This set contains four elements: the two of clubs, the two of spades, the two of hearts, and the two of diamonds.

We can imagine many more sets of cards. If we are holding a deck, each of these can be made tangible: we can touch the elements of the set. But the set itself is always abstract: we can not touch it. It is the idea of the group as distinct from any individual member.

Moreover, the elements of a set need not be tangible. First, consider the set consisting of the suits of the playing card: hearts, diamonds, spades, and clubs. This set has four elements. Each element is a suit, whatever that is.

Second, consider the set consisting of the card types. This set has thirteen elements: ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, jack, queen, king. The subtlety here is that this set is different than the set of hearts, namely those thirteen cards which are hearts. However these sets are similar: they both have thirteen elements, and there is a natural correspondence between their elements: the ace of hearts with the type ace, the two of hearts with the type two, and so on.

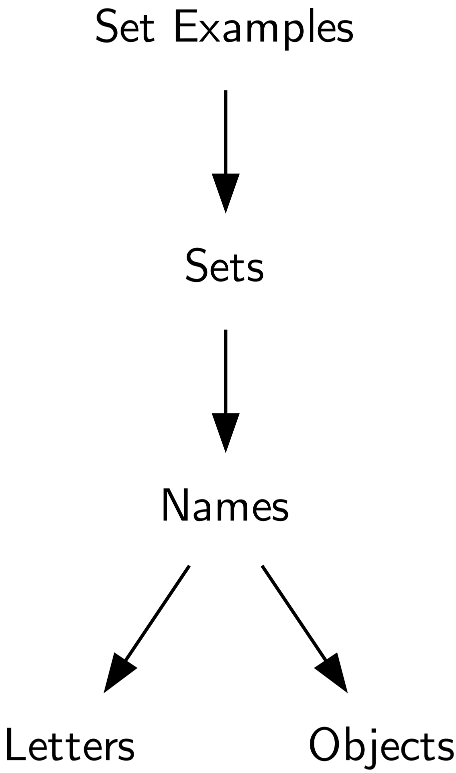
Of course, sets need have nothing to do with playing cards. For example, consider the set of seasons: autumn, winter, spring, and summer. This set has four elements. For another example, consider the set of lower case latin letters (introduced in Letters): a, b, c, . . . , x, y, z. This set has twenty-six elements. Finally, consider a pack of wolves, or a bunch of grapes, or a flock of pigeons.

Set Examples (6) immediately needs:

Sets (5)

Set Examples (6) is not immediately needed by any sheet.

Set Examples (6) gives no terms.


Set Examples
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want symbols to represent identity and belonging.

Definition

In the English language, nouns are words that name people, places and things. In these sheets, names (see Names) serve the role of nouns. In the English language, verbs are words which talk about actions or relations. In these sheets, we use the verbs "is" and "belongs" for the objects discussed. And we exclusively use the present tense.

Experience shows that we can avoid the English language and use symbols for verbs. By doing this, we introduce odd new shapes and forms to which we can give specific meanings. As we use italics for names to remind us that the symbol is denoting a possibly intangible arbitrary object, we use new symbols for verbs to remind us that we are using particular verbs, in a particular sense, with a particular tense. A *statement* is a succession of symbols.

Identity

As an example, consider the symbol =. Let a denote an object and b denote an object. Let us suppose that these two objects are the same object (see Identities). We agree that = means "is" in this sense. Then we write $a = b$. It's an odd series of symbols, but a series of symbols nonetheless. And if we read it aloud, we would read a as "the object denoted by a", then $=$ as "is", then b as "the object denoted by b". Altogether then, "the object denoted by a is the object denoted by b." We might box these three symbols $\boxed{a = b}$ to make clear that they are meant to be read together, but experience shows that (as with English sentences and words) we do not need boxes.

The symbol $=$ is (appropriately) a symmetric symbol. If we flip it left and right, it is the same symbol. This reflects the symmetry of the English sentences represented (see Identities). The symbols $a = b$ mean the same as the symbols $b = a$.

Belonging

As a second example, consider the symbol $\in$. Let a denote an object and let A denote a set. We agree that $\in$ means "belongs to" in the sense of "is an element of" or "is a member of" (see Sets). Then we write $a \in A$. We read these symbols as "the object denoted by a belongs to the set denoted by A".[1]

The symbol $\in$ is not symmetric. If we flip it left and right it looks different. This reflects that $a \in A$ does not the mean the same as $A \in a$ (see Sets). As with english words, the order of symbols is significant. The word "word" is not the same as the word "drow". Our symbolism for belonging reflects the concept's lack of symmetry.

[1]The symbol $\in$ is a stylized lower case Greek letter ε, which is a mnemonic for the ancient Greek word $\grave{\varepsilon}\sigma\tau\acute{\iota}$ which means, roughly, "belongs". Since in English, ε is read aloud "ehp-sih-lawn," $\in$ is also a mnemonic for "element of".

Statements (7) immediately needs:

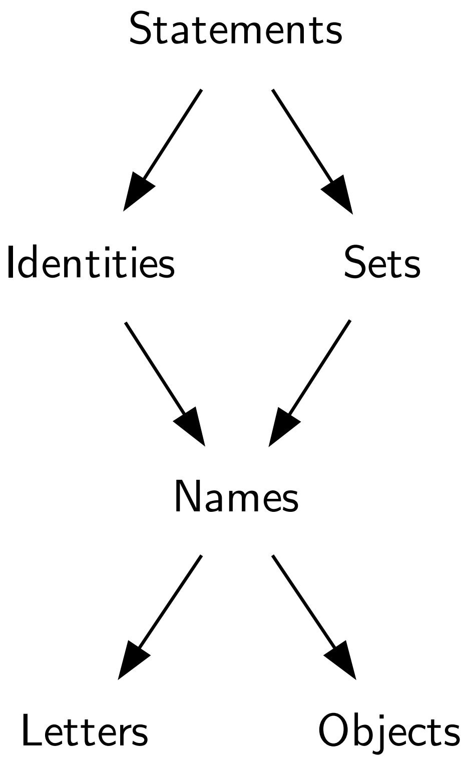
Identities (4)
Sets (5)

Statements (7) is immediately needed by:

Logical Statements (8)

Statements (7) gives the following terms.

statement
relational symbol
name symbol
relational symbol
name symbol
relational symbols
terminal
assertion
membership assertion
identity assertion
primitive sentence
logical form
sentence
belongs to
member


Statements
Identities
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want symbols for "and", "or", "not", and "implies".[2]

Overview

We call $=$ and $\in$ *relational symbols.* They say how the objects denoted by a pair of placeholder names relate to each other in the sense of being or belonging. We call $\_ = \_$ and $\_ \in \_$ *simple statements.* They denote simple sentences "the object denoted by _ is the object denoted by _" and "the object denoted by _ belongs to the set denoted by _". The symbols introduced here are *logical symbols* and statements using them are *logical statements.*

Conjunction

Consider the symbol $\land$. We will agree that it means "and". If we want to make two simple statements like $a = b$ and $a \in A$ at once, we write write $(a = b) \land (a \in A)$. The symbol $\land$ is symmetric, reflecting the fact that a statement like $(a \in A) \land (a = b)$ means the same as $(a = b) \land (a \in A)$.

Disjunction

Consider the symbol $\lor$. We will agree that it means "or" in the sense of either one, the other, or both. If we want to say that

[2]This sheet does not explain logic. In the next edition there will be several more sheets serving this function.

at least one of the simple statements like $a = b$ and $a \in A$, we write write $(a = b) \vee (a \in A)$. The symbol $\vee$ is symmetric, reflecting the fact that a statement like $(a \in A) \vee (a = b)$ means the same as $(a = b) \vee (a \in A)$.

Negation

Consider the symbol $\neg$. We will agree that it means "not". We will use it to say that one object "is not" another object and one object "does not belong to" another object. If we want to say the opposite of a simple statement like $a = b$ we will write $\neg(a = b)$. We read it aloud as "not a is b" or (the more desirable) "a is not b". Similarly, $\neg(a \in A)$ we read as "not, the object denoted by a belongs to the set denoted by A". Again, the more desirable english expression is something like "the object denoted by a does not belong to the set A" For these reasons, we introduce two new symbols $\neq$ and $\notin$. $a \neq b$ means $\neg(a = b)$ and $a \notin A$ means $\neg(a \in A)$.

Implication

Consider the symbol $\longrightarrow$. We will agree that it means "implies". For example $(a \in A) \longrightarrow (a \in B)$ means "the object denoted by a belongs to the object denoted by A implies the object denoted by a belongs to the set denoted by B" It is the same as $(\neg(a \in A)) \vee (a \in B)$. In other words, if $a \in A$, then always $a \in B$. The symbol $\longrightarrow$ is not symmetric, since implication is not symmetric. The symbol $\longleftrightarrow$ means "if and only if".

Logical Statements (8) immediately needs:

Statements (7)

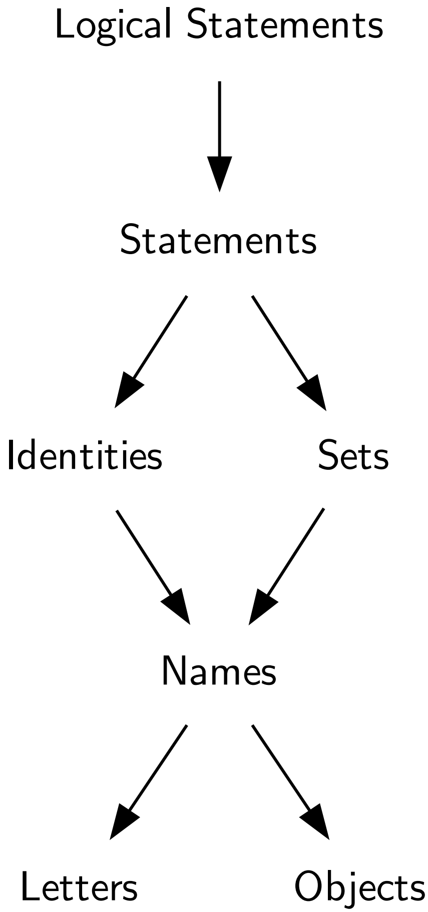
Logical Statements (8) is immediately needed by:

Deductions (9)

Quantified Statements (10)

Logical Statements (8) gives the following terms.

relational symbols
simple statements
logical symbols
logical statements


Logical Statements
Statements
Identities
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want to make conclusions.

Definition

Suppose we have a list of logical statements. We want to write down o

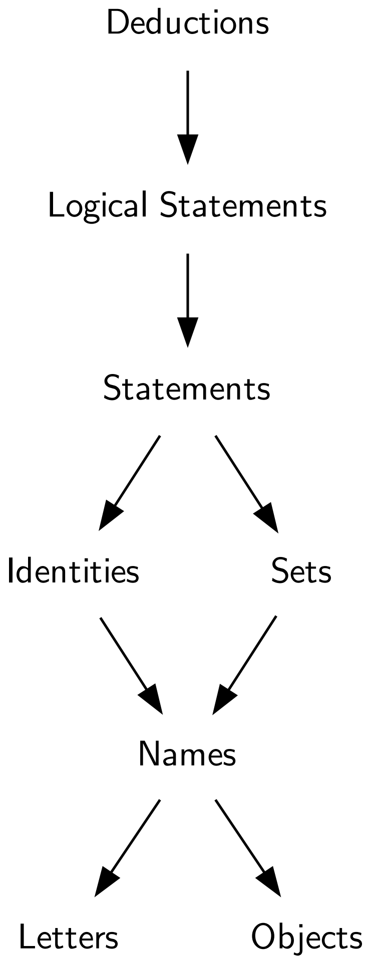
Deductions (9) immediately needs:

Logical Statements (8)

Deductions (9) is immediately needed by:

Accounts (11)

Deductions (9) gives no terms.


Deductions
Logical Statements
Statements
Identities
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want symbols for talking about the existence of objects and for making statements which hold for all objects.[3]

Definition

If we say there exists an object that is blue, we mean the same as if we say that not every object is not blue. If we say that every object is blue, we mean the same as if we say there does not exist an object that is not blue. In other words, "there exists an object so that _" is the same as "not every object is not _". Or, "every object is _" is the same as "there does not exist an object that is _".

When we assert something of every object we also assert the nonexistence of the contrary of that assertion. And likewise when we assert that an object exists with some conditions, we assert that not every object exists without that condition.

The content of our assertions will be logical statements (see Logical Statements) and when we want to make them for all objects or for no object we will use the following symbols. The symbols introduced here are *quantifier symbols* and statements using them are *quantified statements*.

[3] This sheet does not explain quantifiers. In the next edition there will be several more sheets serving this function

Existential Quantifier

Consider the symbol $\exists$. We agree that it means "there exists an object". We write $(\exists x)(\_)$ and then substitute any logical statement which uses the name x for $\_$. For example, we write $(\exists x)(x \in A)$ to mean "there exists an object in the set denoted by A" We call $\exists$ the *existential quantifier* symbol.

Universal Quantifier

Consider the symbol $\forall$. We agree that it means "for every object". We write $(\forall x)(\_)$ and then substitute any logical statement which uses the name x for $\_$. For example, we write $(\forall x)((x \in A) \longrightarrow (x \in B)$ to mean, "every object which is in the set denoted by A is in the set denoted by B". We call $\forall$ the *universal quantifier* symbol.

Binding

When we have a name following a $\forall$ or $\exists$ we say that the name is *bound.* If a name is bound, then the statement uses it in one sense but not in another. The name is only used in that single statement. Regular names in statements we call *unbound*

Negations

The statement $\neg(\forall x)(\_)$ is the same as $(\exists x)(\neg(\_))$ and $\neg(\exists x)(\_)$ is the same as $(\forall x)(\neg(\_))$.

Quantified Statements (10) immediately needs:

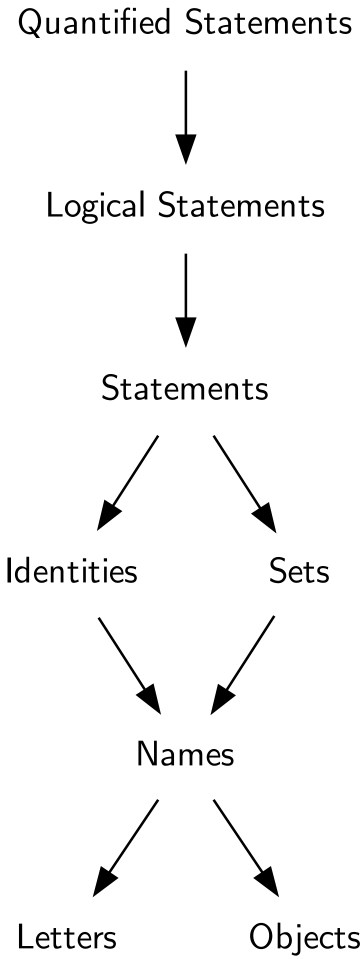
Logical Statements (8)

Quantified Statements (10) is immediately needed by:

Accounts (11)

Quantified Statements (10) gives the following terms.

quantifier symbols
quantified statements
existential quantifier
universal quantifier
bound
unbound


Quantified Statements
Logical Statements
Statements
Identities
Sets
Names
Letters
Objects

Why

We want to succinctly and clearly make several statements about objects and sets. We want to track the names we use, taking care to avoid using the same name twice.

Definition

An *account*[4] is a list of naming, logical, and quantified statements. We use the words "let _ denote an _" to introduce a name as a placeholder for a thing, and we use the symbols $\_ = \_$ and $\_ \in \_$ to denote statements of identity and belonging. In other words, we have three sentence kinds to record.

1. **Names.** State we are using a name.

2. **Identity.** We want to make statements of identity.

3. **Belonging.** We want to make statements of belonging.

Our main purpose is to keep a list names, of quantified, logical and simple statments about them, and then statements we can deduce from these. In particular we want to group our name usage. In the English language we use paragraphs or sections to do so. In these sheets, we will use accounts. We will list the statements and label each with Arabic numerals (see Letters). which will be a list of statements, each of which is labeled by an Arabic numeral (see Letters).

[4]This sheet will be expanded in future editions.

Experience suggests that we start with an example. Suppose we want to summarize the following english language description of some names and objects.

> Denote an object by a. Also, denote the same object by b Also, denote a set by A. Also, the object denoted by a is an element of the set denoted by A. Also denote an object by c. Also c is the same object as b.

In our usual manner of speaking, we drop the word “also”. In these sheets, we translate each of the sentences into our symbols. For names we use, we write `name` in that font followed by the name. For logical statements we `have`, we write `have` followed by the logical statement. For deductions we write `thus` followed by the conclusion and then `by` followed by the Arabic numerals of the premisses. So we write:

Account 1. First Example

1	`name`	a	
2	`name`	b	
3	`have`	$a = b$	
4	`name`	A	
5	`have`	$a \in A$	
6	`name`	c	
7	`have`	$c = b$	
8	`thus`	$a = c$	`by 3,7`

Accounts (11) immediately needs:

Deductions (9)
Quantified Statements (10)

Accounts (11) is immediately needed by:

Standardized Accounts (12)

Accounts (11) gives the following terms.

$account$