

# The Logic of Quantification

This is a mini-lesson on the use of quantifiers, and some standard symbols for quantifiers, in mathematics.

Basic quantifiers and their symbols

Universal quantifier - "For every" or "For all"  $\forall$

Existential quantifier - "There exists"  $\exists$

Other common symbols

"Such that"  $\ni$

"Implies"  $\Rightarrow$

"If... then"  $\rightarrow$

"Not"  $\sim$  or  $\neg$

"If and only if"  $\leftrightarrow$

Examples:

Let C be the set of all cats, Y the set of all yellow things, B the set of all blue things, D the set of all dogs.

To write the statement "All cats are yellow", one could write:

$$\forall x \ni x \in C, x \in Y.$$

To write "Some cats are not yellow", one could write:

$$\exists x \ni x \in C \text{ and } x \text{ is } \sim Y.$$

Practice: Write in symbols

1. "All blue things are dogs."

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2. "Some dogs are either blue or yellow."

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To negate a universally quantified statement, one uses an existentially quantified statement. To negate an existentially quantified statement, one uses a universally quantified statement.

Example: The negation of "All blue things are dogs" is "Some blue things are not dogs."

Practice: Write, in symbols, the negation of each following statement:

3. "All dogs are yellow."

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4. "Some cats are blue."

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