

Aristotle developed an influential classification of the fundamental kinds or ways of being known as his “ten categories”—what medievals called the *praedicamenta*.¹ These lists have been viewed as itemizing (1) types of predicate, (2) highest of the genera, or (3) kinds of predication.²

Greek	Translations	Description	Example
<i>ousia / ti esti</i> what is it?	substance, essence	what-it-is; Aristotle's “primary substance,” i.e., non-accidental particulars (cf. <i>Categories</i> 2, “not predicated-of (said-of), not present-in”)	man, horse
<i>poson</i> how much?	quantity	the extension of an object, either discrete or continuous; this and the following are accidental particulars (“not predicated-of, present-in”)	two cubits long, three cubits long
<i>poion</i> what kind?	quality	the nature of an object	white, grammatical
<i>prosti</i> in relation to what?	relation	the relation of one object to another	double, half, greater
<i>pou</i> where?	place	an object's position relative to its surroundings	in the market place, in the Lyceum
<i>pote</i> when?	time	an object's position relative to other events	yesterday, last year
<i>keisthai</i> to lie	position	being-in-a-position; a condition of rest resulting from an action (<i>poiein</i>)	lying, sitting
<i>echein</i> to have	state, possession, having	a condition of rest resulting from an affection (<i>paschein</i>)	shod (has-shoes-on), armed
<i>poiein</i> to make, to do	action, doing	the production of change in another object	to lance, to cauterize
<i>paschein</i> to suffer, to undergo	affection, passivity	being-affected; the reception of change from some other object	to be lanced, to be cauterized

¹ *Categories* 4, 1b25-2a4; *Topics* I.9, 103b20-25; other passages contain lists of eight, six, five, or four of the ten, focusing especially on the first four. ² Smith, Robin. “Logic.” *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle*. Ed. Jonathan Barnes. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995. 55-56.