



# Porphyry: On Aristotle Categories (Ancient Commentators on Aristotle)

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Porphyry (AD 232/3 - C.305) is of crucial importance for the history of Aristotelian studies. Born in Tyre and a student of Plotinus in Rome, he later defended Aristotle's *Categories* against Plotinus, arguing that they were entirely compatible with Platonism. His intervention was decisive: the *Categories* became a basic textbook of logic for all subsequent Neoplatonist teaching and influenced both the Arabic and Western Traditions. Boethius drew heavily on Porphyry's treatment. The full commentary is lost, but a shorter version survives and is translated here.

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