# Perpendiculars to a given line at a given point on that line, in three dimensions 



Given a line, a point on the line, and a plane containing that line, a basic result in Euclidean geometry states that there is a unique perpendicular to the given line at the given point, and contained in the given plane. The drawing above shows the need to choose a plane containing the line. Observe that there are multiple lines to PQ which are perpendicular to that line at $\mathbf{Q}$. The line $\mathbf{P Q}$ and the lines perpendicular to $\mathbf{P}$ at $\mathbf{Q}$ determine distinct planes. In fact, the union of perpendiculars to $\mathbf{P Q}$ is a plane which is perpendicular to $\mathbf{P Q}$ at $\mathbf{Q}$.

