

be·yond¹

S2 W1

/bɪˈjɒnd \$ -ˈjɑːnd/

preposition, adverb

1 FAR on or to the further side of something:

They crossed the mountains and headed for the valleys beyond.

Beyond the river, cattle were grazing.

She drove through Westport, and stopped a few miles beyond at a wayside inn.

In everyday English, people usually say **on the other side of** something rather than use the preposition **beyond**:

*People waited **on the other side of** the barrier.*

2 AFTER later than a particular time, date etc

SYN after

What changes await us in the coming year and beyond?

The ban has been extended beyond 2003.

The disco went on until beyond midnight.

3 more or greater than a particular amount, level, or limit:

More people are choosing to work beyond retirement age.

Inflation has risen beyond the 5% level.

4 outside the range or limits of something or someone:

*Such tasks are **far beyond** the scope of the average schoolkid.*

expensive luxuries that are beyond the reach of ordinary people

5 used to say that something is impossible to do:

beyond repair/control/belief etc (= impossible to repair, control, believe etc)

Scott's equipment was damaged beyond repair.

The town centre had changed beyond all recognition.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the performance has had to be cancelled.

6 be beyond somebody

to be too difficult for someone to understand:

The whole problem was quite beyond him.

Why Joan ever married such an idiot in the first place is beyond me.

7 used to mean 'except' in negative sentences:

Fred owns nothing beyond the clothes on his back.

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *begeondan*, from *geondan* 'beyond', from *geond*; YONDER

beyond²

noun

the beyond (literary) DIE

whatever comes after this life

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