

# be·hind<sup>1</sup> S1 W1

/bi'haind/

preposition, adverb

**1** BEHIND at or towards the back of a thing or person:

*I turned to speak to the person standing behind me.*

*Someone could easily creep up behind us.*

*The car behind was hooting impatiently.*

*Jane shut the door behind her.*

*The manager was sitting behind a large desk.*

**close behind/not far behind**

*He set off down the road with the rest of us following close behind.*

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⚠ Do not say 'behind of': *He hid behind a chair (NOT behind of a chair).*

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**2** LOSE A GAME, COMPETITION, OR WAR not as successful or not having made as much progress as someone or something else:

*Mark's always behind the rest of his class in mathematics.*

*This victory lifts Ferguson's team into fifth place, nine points behind leaders Norwich.*

*Europe was falling behind in the important field of computer technology.*

**3** used to say that someone is late in doing what they have to do:

*This work should have been finished yesterday. I'm getting terribly behind.*

*Victor had fallen behind with his mortgage payments after losing his job.*

*an important research project that is already two years **behind schedule** (= not ready at the time planned)*

**4** REASON used for talking about the hidden reason for something:

*I wonder what's behind this change of plan.*

*Perhaps a bitter experience lay behind her anger.*

**5** SUPPORT A PERSON, GROUP, OR PLAN supporting a person, idea etc:

*The workers are very much behind these proposals.*

*I suppose I'm lucky because my parents were behind me all the way.*

**6** RESPONSIBLE responsible for a plan, idea etc or for organizing something:

*It was alleged that foreign agents were behind the recent violence.*

*The Rotary Club is behind the fund-raising for the new hospital.*

**7** FORGET if an unpleasant experience or situation is behind you, it no longer upsets you or affects your life:

*Now you can put all these worries behind you.*

*a chance to start a new life and leave all your troubles behind*

**8** LEARN if you have experience behind you, you have gained valuable skills or important qualities that can be used:

*Marjorie is one of the top designers in the business, with years of experience behind her.*

**9** HIDE/NOT SHOW used when the real facts about a situation or someone's character are hidden by the way things seem or by the way a person behaves:

*We were determined to find the truth behind this mystery.*

*You could see the burning hatred behind Graham's calm manner.*

**10** if a student stays behind after school or after a lesson, they stay after it has finished

→ **behind somebody's back** AT BACK<sup>2</sup> (9) ,

→ **behind bars** AT BAR<sup>1</sup> (7),

→ **behind the times** AT TIME<sup>1</sup> (38)

## THESAURUS

**behind** at or towards the back of something, and often hidden by it: *The sun went behind a cloud. | I got stuck behind a truck on the way to the airport.*

**at the back (BrE), in (the) back (AmE)** behind something, especially a building: *There's a small garden at the back of the cottage. | Their house has a pool in the back.*

**at/to the rear (written)** behind something, especially a building. **At/to the rear** sounds rather formal and is used especially in written descriptions: *They parked in a small carpark at the rear of the hotel. | There is a small seating area to the rear.*

**in the background** if someone or something is in the background, it is behind the place where the main activity is happening: *If you look carefully at the painting, you will see several men sitting at a table in the background.*

### Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *behindan*, from *hindan* 'from behind'

## behind<sup>2</sup>

noun

[countable]

(informal) the part of your body that you sit on

**SYN** bottom

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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