

be-have

S3 W3

/bi'heiv/

verb [intransitive]

- 1 [always + adverb/preposition] ^{BEHAVE} to do things that are good, bad, sensible etc

SYN act

*She **behaved in a very responsible way.***

behave towards

I think he behaved disgracefully towards you.

behave like

grown men behaving like schoolboys

behave as if/though

He was a little boy, but he behaved as if he was an adult.

- 2 (also **behave yourself**) ^{BEHAVE} to not do things that annoy or offend people

OPP

Will you children please behave!

I hope Nicholas behaved himself at the party.

well-behaved/badly-behaved

a badly-behaved class

- 3 [always + adverb/preposition] ^{DO} if something behaves in a particular way, it does those things:

Quantum mechanics is the study of the way atoms behave.

THESAURUS

behave to do and say things that are good, bad, normal, strange etc: *His teacher said he'd been behaving badly at*

school. | I'm not going to talk to her until she starts behaving reasonably. | Oh, be quiet! You're behaving like a two-year-old.

act to behave in a particular way, especially in a way that seems unusual, surprising, or annoying to other people: *Tina's been acting very strangely lately. | What makes grown people act like that?*

treat to behave towards someone or deal with someone in a particular way: *She said that he'd treated her really badly throughout their two-year marriage. | I'm sick of my parents treating me like a child.*

conform to behave in the way that most other people in your group or society behave: *Young people sometimes want to rebel and therefore they refuse to conform. | Society typically brings pressure on individuals and groups to conform to civilised norms.*

conduct yourself (formal) to behave in a particular way, especially in a situation where people will notice and judge the way you behave: *Public figures have a duty to conduct themselves responsibly, even in their private lives. | By the end of the course, you should be able to conduct yourself with confidence in any meeting.*

Word origin

Date: 1400–1500

Origin: *have* 'to hold or bear (yourself), behave' (14–16 centuries)