

ben·e·fit¹

S2 W1 AC

/ˈben_əfit/

noun

1 **advantage** [uncountable and countable] ADVANTAGE an advantage, improvement, or help that you get from something → **beneficial**:

benefit of

the benefits of contact lenses

I never had the benefit of a university education.

*The new credit cards will **be of** great **benefit** to our customers.*

*I hope that the decision taken today will **be to the benefit of** the whole nation.*

for somebody's benefit

Could you just explain again for Mark's benefit?

without the benefit of something

Most motorists manage without the benefit of four-wheel drive.

2 **money from government** [uncountable and countable] (BrE) MONEY money provided by the government to people who are sick, unemployed, or have little money

SYN **welfare** (AmE):

unemployment/housing/child etc benefit

You might be entitled to housing benefit.

on benefit

families on benefit

*those people eligible to **claim benefit***

3 **extra things** [countable usually plural] MONEY extra money or other

advantages that you get as part of your job or from insurance that you have → **perk:**

*We offer an excellent **benefits package**.*

medical benefits

→ FRINGE BENEFIT

4 **give somebody the benefit of the doubt** BELIEVE

to accept what someone tells you, even though you think they may be wrong or lying but you cannot be sure:

The referee gave him the benefit of the doubt.

5 **with the benefit of hindsight/experience**

used to say it is easier to know the right thing to do after something has happened or if you have a lot of experience:

He admitted that with the benefit of hindsight the original launch had not been large enough.

6 **benefit concert/performance/match** MONEY

a concert, performance etc arranged to make money for CHARITY:

a benefit concert for famine relief

COLLOCATIONSSense 1 verbs

have the benefit of something *All the hotel rooms have the benefit of a balcony.*

get a benefit (also gain/derive a benefit (formal)) *In this way, students will gain maximum benefit from their classes.*

enjoy the benefits *You'll enjoy all the benefits of being a member.*

reap the benefits (= enjoy the advantages of something you have worked hard to get) *He was looking forward to reaping the benefits of all his hard work.*

bring/provide benefits *The new bridge has brought considerable benefits.*

something outweighs the benefits (= something is more

important than the benefits) *Make sure that the risks don't outweigh the benefits.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + benefit

a great/major/substantial benefit *The new system will be a great benefit to the company.*

a real benefit *To get some real benefit from the exercise, you should continue for at least half an hour.*

a direct benefit *The money sent has been of direct benefit to the islanders.*

a lasting benefit *These plans are likely to result in lasting benefit to the whole of our district.*

the full benefit of something *They will have the full benefit of our facilities.*

economic/social/environmental etc benefits *Tourism has brought considerable economic benefits to the island.*

health benefits *Just 30 minutes of moderate daily activity yields health benefits.*

mutual benefit (= something good for both people, companies etc involved) *Our two companies are working together for mutual benefit.*

potential benefits *The potential benefits of the scheme must be weighed against the costs involved.*

for your own benefit *He used the money for his own benefit, instead of using it to help other people.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Anglo-French

Origin: *ben fet*, from Latin *bene factum*, from *bene factus*; → [BENEFACTION](#)