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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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be·hoove  (bĭ-h v)

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v. **be·hooved**, **be·hoov·ing**, **be·hooves**

v.tr.

To be necessary or proper for: *It behooves you at least to try.*

v.intr.

To be necessary or proper.

[Middle English *behoven*, from Old English *behōfian*; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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