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be·hind  (bĭ-hīnd)

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adv.

1. In, to, or toward the rear: *We walked behind.*
2. In a place or condition that has been passed or left: *I left my gloves behind.*
3. In arrears; late: *I fell behind in my payments.*
4. Below the standard level; in or into an inferior position: *Don't fall behind in class.*
5. Slow: *My watch is running behind.*
6. *Archaic* Yet to come or in reserve: *"the expectation of some new possession, or of some enjoyment yet behind"* (Samuel Johnson).

prep.

1. At the back of or in the rear of: *He sat behind her.*
2. On the farther side or other side of; beyond: *The broom is behind the door.*
3. In a place or time that has been passed or left by: *Their worries are behind them.*
4.
 - a. Later than: *The plane was behind schedule.*
 - b. Used to indicate deficiency in performance: *behind us in technological development.*
5.
 - a. Hidden or concealed by: *hatred hidden behind a bland smile.*
 - b. In the background of; underlying: *Behind your every action is self-interest.*
6. In a position or attitude of support: *The leaders have the army behind them.*
7. In pursuit of: *The police were hard behind the escapees.*

n.

Informal The buttocks.

[Middle English *bihinde*, from Old English *behindan*; see **ko-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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