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behalf

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be·half | \ bi-'haf  , -'häf, bē- \

Definition of *behalf*

: [interest](#), [benefit](#) also : [support](#), [defense](#) argued in his behalf

on behalf of or in behalf of

: in the interest of also : as a representative of I wrote the letter *on behalf of* my client.

[On Behalf of vs. in Behalf of: Usage Guide](#) [More Example Sentences](#) [Phrases Containing *behalf*](#)
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On Behalf of vs. in Behalf of: Usage Guide

A body of opinion favors *in* with the "interest, benefit" sense of *behalf* and *on* with the "support, defense" sense. This distinction has been observed by some writers but overall has never had a sound basis in actual usage. In current British use, *on behalf (of)* has replaced *in behalf (of)*; both are still used in American English, but the distinction is frequently not observed.

Examples of *behalf* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web Her family members—including Prince Charles, Princess Anne, and Prince William—stepped in on her *behalf* throughout the celebration. — Emily Burack, *Town & Country*, 5 June 2022 Then your

computer could act kind of like a butler, interacting with apps and websites on your *behalf*. — Geoffrey A. Fowler, *Anchorage Daily News*, 4 June 2022 Gendron's lawyers entered a plea of not guilty to all of the charges on his *behalf*. — Aaron Katersky, *ABC News*, 3 June 2022 [See More](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'behalf.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Phrases Containing *behalf*

- [in behalf of](#)
 - [in behalf of someone](#)
 - [in someone's behalf](#)
 - [on behalf of](#)
 - [on behalf of someone](#)
 - [on someone's behalf](#)
-
- [in behalf of](#)
 - [in behalf of someone](#)
 - [in someone's behalf](#)
 - [on behalf of](#)
 - [on behalf of someone](#)
 - [on someone's behalf](#)

First Known Use of *behalf*

14th century, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *behalf*

Middle English, from *by* + *half* half, side

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Time Traveler for *behalf*



The first known use of *behalf* was in the 14th century

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[be had](#)

behalf

[Behan](#)

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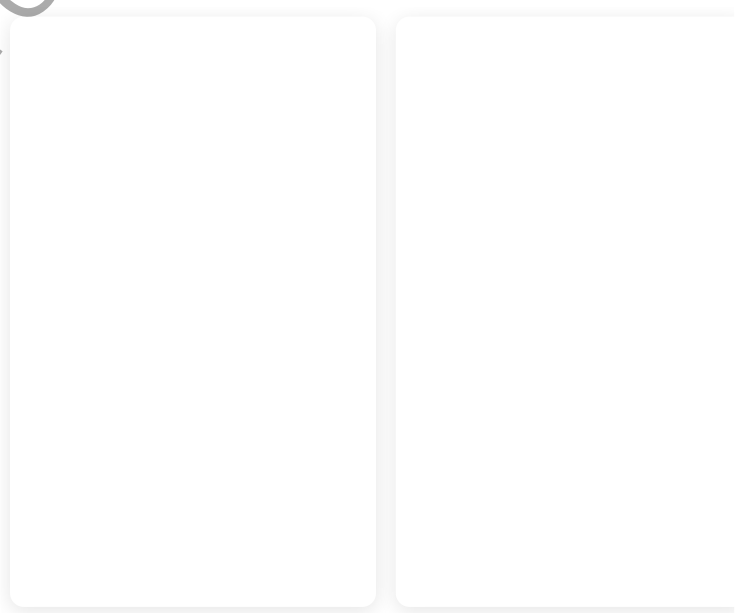
MLA Chicago APA Merriam-Webster

Seen & Heard

People are talking about

AdChoices 


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More Definitions for *behalf*

behalf

noun

be·half | \ bi-'haf  -'häf \

Kids Definition of *behalf*

: a person's interest or support He argued in my *behalf*.

on behalf of or in behalf of

1 : in the interest of I speak *in behalf of* my friend.

2 : as a representative of I accepted the award *on behalf of* the whole class.

More from Merriam-Webster on *behalf*

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WORD OF THE DAY

credulous 

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As illustrated by some very smart

- pups

10 Words from Place Names

Bikini, bourbon, and badminton

- were places first

'Pride': The Word That Went From Vice to Strength

- Do you take pride in Pride?

When Were Words First Used?

- Look up any year to find out

ASK THE EDITORS

Literally

How to use a word that (literally)

- drives some pe...

'All Intensive Purposes' or 'All Intents and Purposes'?

- We're intent on clearing it up

Lay vs. Lie

Editor Emily Brewster clarifies the difference.

-

Hot Mess

- "The public is a hot mess"

WORD GAMES

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Not a quiz for the pusillanimous

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