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# benchmark

## or bench mark

### [**bench**-mahrk]

Spell   Syllables

Examples   Word Origin

See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com (<http://www.thesaurus.com/browse/benchmark>)

### noun

1. a standard of excellence, achievement, etc., against which similar things must be measured or judged:  
*The new hotel is a benchmark in opulence and comfort.*
2. any standard or reference by which others can be measured or judged:  
*The current price for crude oil may become the benchmark.*
3. *Computers.* an established point of reference against which computers or programs can be measured in tests comparing their performance, reliability, etc.
4. *Surveying.* Usually, **bench mark**. a marked (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/mark>) point of known or assumed elevation from which other elevations may be established.  
**Abbreviation:** BM.

### adjective

5. of, relating to, or resulting in a benchmark:  
*benchmark test, benchmark study.*

### verb (used with object)

6. to test (something) in order to develop a standard:  
*IT benchmarked the new software.*
7. to measure (something) against a standard:  
*executive salaries benchmarked against the industry.*

### Origin of benchmark

1835-1845

### Word of the Day

#### Related Word

tidal benchmark  
(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/tidal-benchmark>)

#### Nearby words for benchmark

bencher (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/bencher>)  
 benching (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benching>)  
 benching iron (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benching-iron>)  
 benchley (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchley>)  
 benchman (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchman>)

#### benchmark

(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchmark>)

benchmark position

What does Tis the Season mean? (<http://www.dictionary.com/e/tis-the-season/?src=dcom-serp-tab>)

First recorded in 1835-45; bench (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/bench>) + mark (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/mark>)<sup>1</sup>

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(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchmark-position>)  
 benchmarking (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchmarking>)  
 benchrest (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchrest>)  
 benchwarmer (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchwarmer>)  
 benchy (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/benchy>)

## Examples from the Web for benchmark

### Contemporary Examples

He was a *benchmark*, a mentor as an artist and as a man, and I just loved him with all my heart.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/09/10/andrew-garfield-on-the-evils-of-capitalism-the-hacking-scandal-and-criticism-of-spider-man-2.html?source=dictionary>)  
 Andrew Garfield on the Evils of Capitalism, the Hacking Scandal, and Criticism of 'Spider-Man 2'  
 Marlow Stern (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/marlow-stern.html?source=dictionary>)  
 September 10, 2014

Here's a key to understand the graph of accuracy: • Lab: The polysomnograph, the *benchmark* for the other three.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/26/how-i-finally-got-to-the-bottom-of-my-insomnia.html?source=dictionary>)  
 How I Finally Got to the Bottom of My Insomnia  
 Gregory Ferenstein (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/gregory-ferenstein.html?source=dictionary>)  
 June 26, 2014

Using the three states with the lowest mortality rate as the *benchmark*, they determined where the system breakdown begins.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/05/02/one-of-these-5-things-will-probably-kill-you.html?source=dictionary>)  
 One of These 5 Things Will Probably Kill You  
 Abby Haglage, Brandy Zadrozny (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/abby-haglage-brandy-zadrozny.html?source=dictionary>)  
 May 2, 2014

They represent a *benchmark* for what an average, well-educated student on track for college should know.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/04/21/the-incredibly-stupid-war-on-the-common-core.html?source=dictionary>)  
 The Incredibly Stupid War on the Common Core  
 Charles Upton Sahn (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/charles-upton-sahn.html?source=dictionary>)  
 April 21, 2014

If insurers beat their *benchmark* by 3-8 percent, they have to split that extra revenue with the federal government.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/04/21/fact-checking-the-sunday-review.html?source=dictionary>)  
 Fact-Checking the Sunday Review

## Word Value for benchmark

0 25

Scrabble Words With Friends

What does Tis the Season mean? (<http://www.dictionary.com/e/tis-the-season/?src=dcom-serp-tab>)

/articles/2014/04/13/fact-checking-the-sunday-shows-april-13.html?source=dictionary)  
 PunditFact.com (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/punditfactcom.html?source=dictionary>)  
 April 13, 2014

As long as insurers come close to that *benchmark*, nothing happens.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/punditfactcom.html?source=dictionary>)  
 Fact-Checking the Sunday Shows (April 13) (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/04/13/fact-checking-the-sunday-shows-april-13.html?source=dictionary>)  
 PunditFact.com (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/punditfactcom.html?source=dictionary>)  
 April 13, 2014

He suggests using steps per day as a *benchmark* to become more active—not as a definitive measure of success.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/anna-batchelor.html?source=dictionary>)  
 How to Better Use Your Data (http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/01/08/how-to-make-better-use-of-your-tracking-data.html?source=dictionary)  
 (http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/anna-batchelor.html?source=dictionary)  
 January 8, 2014

The wages it pays set the *benchmark* for the rest of the retail sector.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/anna-batchelor.html?source=dictionary>)  
 Walmart Calls Out the Nation for Its Low-Wage Internship Program (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/08/07/walmart-calls-out-the-nation-for-its-low-wage-internship-program.html?source=dictionary>)  
 Anna Batchelor (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/anna-batchelor.html?source=dictionary>)  
 August 7, 2013

He added that local government officials now had a *benchmark* to govern their behavior and be judged by.

(<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/the-telegraph.html?source=dictionary>)  
 China: An Extreme Communist Makeover? (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/12/05/china-an-extreme-communist-makeover.html?source=dictionary>)  
 The Telegraph (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/the-telegraph.html?source=dictionary>)  
 December 5, 2012

## Historical Examples

They set a standard which has remained the *benchmark* of Virginia political ethics.

The Road to Independence: Virginia 1763-1783 (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/30058/30058-h/30058-h.htm>)  
 Virginia State Dept. of Education

British Dictionary definitions for benchmark

# benchmark

/ˈbɛntʃ.mɑːk/

What does Tis the Season mean? (<http://www.dictionary.com/e/tis-the-season/?src=dcom-serp-tab>)

**noun**

1. a mark on a stone post or other permanent feature, at a point whose exact elevation and position is known: used as a reference point in surveying **BM**
2. a. a criterion by which to measure something; standard; reference point  
b. (*as modifier*): *a benchmark test*

**verb**

3. to measure or test against a benchmark: *the firm benchmarked its pay against that in industry*

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Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

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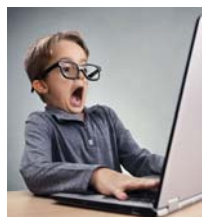
## Word Origin and History for benchmark

*n.*  
also *bench-mark*, "surveyor's point of reference," 1838, from a specialized surveyors' use of *bench* (/browse/bench) (*n.*) + *mark* (/browse/mark) (*n.1*); figurative sense is from 1884.

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(<http://www.dictiona.com/slideshows/sad->



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(<http://www.dictionary.com/slideshows/aged-words>)

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10 Words That W  
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(<http://www.dictionary.com/slideshows/aged-words>)

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(<http://www.dictionary.com/e/discreet-and-discrete>)

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(<http://www.dictionary.com/e/ampersand>)

What mistaken pronunciation gave this character its name?

Apostrophes 101 (<http://www.dictionary.com/e/apostrophes-101>)

This small mark has two primary uses: to signify possession or omitted letters.

How Do I Get a Word into the Dictionary? (<http://www.dictionary.com/e/getting-words-into-dictionaries>)

People invent new words all the time, but which ones actually make it?

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