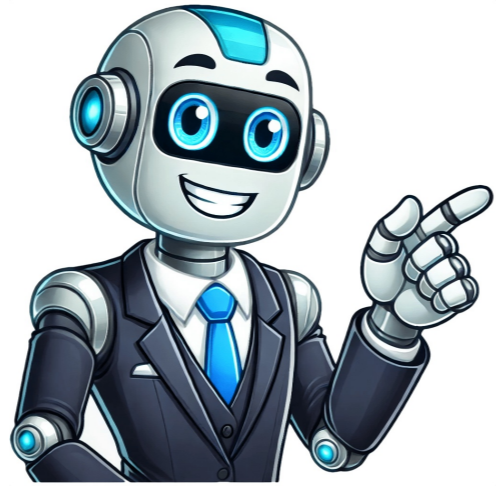


I'm not a robot



Hello. I am a little bit confused of using this word "explain" For example... 1. Let me explain about my family.2. Let me explain my family What I've know is thatThe verb "explain" can be both an intransitive verb and a transitive verb. Therefore, how can I figure out which one is better to use? In your example either statement would work, though the first version is probably what you want. To explain about your family would be to explain some details about your family. To explain your family would be to provide reasons for how your family works or how it came to be. Most of the time, people explain some things related to their families, rather than trying to analyze their families as a social unit. Therefore, "Let me explain to you about my family" is probably more common than "Let me explain my family to you". Last edited: Aug 16, 2010 Hello! Are "Let me explain this word" & "Let me explain about this word" both correct? Thanks! Both are grammatical, but have different meanings. You have seen Owlman's explanation above. 'Explain a word' probably means 'give the meaning of a word', whereas 'explain about a word' might include that, but might also include why a word has been used. This sentence is my own. I'm not sure if 'by' or 'with' is correct here. Thanks for your help.This can awfully well be explained WITH Chinese medicine, Dr. Peter says with conviction. Where did you find the example? It seems to be a very strange sentence: what is the context? This can very well be explained in the context of Chinese medicine, Dr. Peter says with conviction. Last edited by a moderator: Nov 9, 2014 The example is from my manuscript. The context is as follows:For medical physicians its inexplicable that food is able to produce panic, not to mention in the way I experienced it yesterday. This can awfully well be explained with Chinese medicine, Dr. Peter says with conviction. (I visited Dr. Peter and told him about the experience, and then he said this. It's present tense narrative.) To avoid the alternative meaning of 'very well' = 'truly', I would change Hildy1's version to: Chinese medicine explains this reaction very well , Dr. Peter says with conviction. Okay, thank you Paul, thank you Hildy. Hi, great that this was settled but I'm still curious: is it by or with (or through or by means of)? I'm trying to translate German, and in German one can explain something "out of" something else. What adverb can be used in English? None of these satisfy my gut feeling somehow:Explain x by zExplain x with zExplain x from zExplain x through zThey have tried to explain his sleepiness by(?) everything, just not by(?) his hard work." Hi, there, everyone. Do me a favour, please. The answer to Question 27 is "how".I think "why" and "that" are also acceptable, despite subtle difference. I would appreciate it if you could give your opinions. This sentiment was echoed by Samara Kester, a retired emergency medicine physician who now serves on QP's board. "A photograph is two dimensions. When you are looking at something you're seeing [it's] maybe 180 degrees, maybe 270 degrees, Sound is 360 (degrees). You hear it all around you." Kester explained (27) _____ teaching herself to be a better listener has not only expanded her sense of travel, but helped her relive her travels once she's back home. "You immerse yourself in that place again. You recreate those memories and therefore recreate the feelings that you had, which are very hard to articulate. You can reexperience that and that will send you to where you were before." [from a test paper] I see no problem with "that," but "why" seems less likely in that context. "How" is probably the best answer. I dont think why is likely in that context. And although that is fine grammatically, it says something different.Kester explained how (= the way in which) X was the case.Kester explained [the fact] that X was the case. Yes, they are all good answers, albeit with different meanings:In Kester explained how why that teaching herself to be a better listener has [] expanded her sense of travel, how/why/that teaching herself to be a better listener is a noun phrase. (You can replace the phrase with it.) All of the phrases are examples of content clauses. All of the phrases explain the contents of what was explained.1 Kester explained how [it was that] teaching herself to be a better listener has [] expanded her sense of travel,2 Kester explained [the reason that] teaching herself to be a better listener has [] expanded her sense of travel,3 Kester explained {that teaching herself to be a better listener} has [] expanded her sense of travel,(To me, the example is strange: I have no idea what a sense of travel is.) I also did this exercise,When I came to ask questionsI found it already asked.But I'm still confused that why "why" is less likely in the contextto me"You immerse yourself in that place again. You recreate those memories and therefore recreate the feelings that you had....."can be the way in which X was the case and the reason why X was the case. Theres no good reason to think why would be used in that text. The sentence is not about the reason for her teaching herself to be a better listener. Its about the benefits of having done so (although what listening has to do with looking at travel photos is not revealed!).Considering that sentence in isolation, how initially comes across as a casual alternative to that really just stating a fact. But the next sentence is direct speech, in which she cites ways in which (i.e. how) she later relives her travels. Thank you for your detailed explanation!I'm so sorry that I'm still a little confused.If we put"why"herethe reason may be for the fact thatTeaching herself to be a better listeners also help her relive the travel .It seems to make sense semantically too.So I guess it's because of the subtle difference between"why" and "how" in English in such context that I haven't been aware of before.Maybe "why" emphasize the motive(which implies that there's certain will/intention behind the result) while "how" focus more on that in which way we come to the result.teaching herself to be a better listener(action)helped her relive her travels(result)"immerse herself....."((Cause there isn't someone who is behind this logical course for certain purpose.we only say"how")...I feel a little strange@ @ Using why would of course be grammatical, but thats irrelevant when its not whats meant. Having expanded her sense of travel and helped her relive her travels once she's back home are not being put forward as reasons for her teaching herself to be a better listener. Theyre being described as the outcome of that. Hi all I know the correct way is explain to me, however I don't know if there is any rule about this. Can you please provide me more information about this kind of verbs? Or some verbs with which I have to do the same. Thank you Talk (hablar) would be another. And "listen" (escuchar). You would say "talk to me", and "listen to me" (not "talk me" and "listen me"). I'm sorry I don't know the grammar rule. Other verbs don't need the word "to" before the indirect object. For example, the word, "tell". You can just say "tell me" - not "tell to me". Maybe someone knows the grammar rule. I think it just depends on the word. It depends on the verb. "Explain" requires "to" when used as intransitive. "Explain the lesson to me"Explain - verbthe lesson - direct objectto - preposition requiredme - indirect object. Thank you both, but is there any grammar rule? "Explain" requires "to" when used as intransitive. "Explain the lesson to me" I don't know of any rules either. But I like to point out that "explain" in this sentence is not intransitive. The direct object is "the lesson." Every time I see/hear "explain me," (explain me) I'm reminded of Ricky Ricardo. It is intransitive in the example that Chava gave. Explain to me. "me" is the indirect object. Here is a partial list of verbs of communication:Requiring "to" (someone)---e.g. "She complained to her doctor about the long wait."Boast toBrag toComplain to Confess toConfide toConvey to Declare to, Explain toListen to Mention toRead to (sometimes used without to): Read me his list/ Read his list to meReply toRelate toRemark toRepeat toReport toReveal toSay to State to Suggest toWrite to (sometimes used without to) Write her a short letter / Write a short letter to her Verb Used Without to before (someone) ---e.g. "He answered [] his father without looking at him."AdmonishAdvise Alert Answer Ask Ask Caution Counsel FaxHear InstructPhoneTellWarn It is intransitive in the example that Chava gave. Explain to me. "me" is the indirect object. Hello Intransitive verbs don't have objects, direct or indirect; they have complements. The prepositional phrase to me (where "me" is the object of the preposition "to") is a complement that modifies (completes the meaning of) the intransitive verb explain. Explain the lesson to meTraditional grammar says "the lesson" is the direct object of the transitive verb "explain" (explain what? Answer: "the lesson"), and "to me" the indirect object (explain to whom? Answer: "to me"). Linguists say that analysis makes semantically: The indirect object refers to someone indirectly affected by the action of the verb. Syntactically, however, there is no indirect object; the prepositional phrase "to me" functions as a complement to, and completes the meaning of, the direct object. Moreover, "to me" doesn't meet certain criteria necessary for an "object" (for example, an object follows immediately after the transitive verb); if it isn't an object, then it can't be an indirect object. Cheers I don't know any rule, but I do notice an inconsistent pattern in ellanecanspeak's list. Many of the verbs that require "to" take direct objects (they are transitive): "confess your sins to the priest," "repeat that statement to your mother," "suggest a change to the committee," etc. - and many of the verbs that do not require "to" do not take direct objects (they are intransitive). You can see exceptions, of course, but maybe it can help guide you when you are uncertain about using "to." Hi all I know the correct way is explain to me, however I don't know if there is any rule about this. Can you please provide me more information about this kind of verbs? Or some verbs with which I have to do the same. Thank you First, a semantic explanation: I don't think there is a rule that requires the use of "to" in "explain to me." "To" is a preposition that suggests direction, movement. In (a) explain to me, the direction/movement of the explanation is towards me (in my direction): Explain to me how Brazil could have lost to Holland means the same as Explain in my direction how Brazil could have lost to Holland. (Of course, you wouldn't say in my direction; that's just to illustrate the function of "to.") Explain to him how Brazil could have lost to Holland means the explanation should be in his direction. In (b) explain me, there is no preposition "to" indicating the direction of the explanation. Now, what we are saying is that "me" is the source of the explanation. This is a valid construction because if we can say " How will you explain him to your mother? then we can say how will you explain me to your mother? We are simply replacing one pronoun (him) for another (me). If what you mean to say is (a), meaning direction, then use "to:" explain to me. Othwerwise, you are saying (b): that "me" is what should be explained. Syntactically, many verbs take indirect objects (or complements, to make linguists happy) preceded by "to:" bring, give, send, tell, throw, read, toss, write, pass, pay, etc. (I can't think of more at the moment). Some of these are like explain in that their meaning changes with or without "to."Write to me ~ Write to me as soon as you get to Mars.Write me ~ Don't write me off! I can do the job. Read to me ~ Would you please read to me?Read me ~ My girlfriend knows me too well; she reads me like a book. I hope I haven't confused you...Cheers One of the problems with English is that it is an amalgamation of a number of languages: Old English with the influence of other Germanic languages,Norman French , Latin from the scholars and priests, a few Scandinavian survivals, slang from Irish Gaelic, etc. My supposition is that when verbs arrived from various languages they were often accompanied by the prepositions used with them in the original languages, or adopted without the need for the directional preposition because it was built into the meaning of the original verb in the original language. If this were the case, we would be looking at rules for the original language of each of the verbs. I began looking up verbs other languages, but since I have only modern dictionaries with me I could not do adequate research. 15 of the verbs that took "to" as a directional preposition were from Latin languages(MF OF L), 3 were Germanic (listen, read, write) and 2 uncertain (brag, boast)When I looked at the etymology of the verbs that had the "built-in" 'to' " half on my list were Romance in origin (admonish MF, advise MF OF, alert It (allertare), caution L, counsel ME OF, instruct ME L). Germanic etymologies were: (Answer ME OE ON W, N Grmc, Ask ME OE OHG, Hear ME OE,*Tell ME OE OHG, Warn ME OE OHG). I omitted fax and phone as modern verbs, and did not include call (ME ON OHG), since it could be call me on the phone without "to"or used as "call to me". I don't think there is a rule that requires the use of "to" in "explain to me." What Chava was specifically requesting was a way to make the distinction between when the preposition "to" is required within the the structure below and and when it is not required because its meaning is built into the verb: [specific verb of communication] -[to /] -- [person] Within this template the "to" is either required or not required. "Write me off" and "read me like a book" do not fit his paradigm (although they are certainly interesting in terms of the literal use) The most common problem I see with the verb "explain" and native Spanish speakers is their tendency to say "explain me...". Yes, you could just say "explain to me..." but it still sounds a little strange and unnecessary, to me at least. I agree -- in English we seem to say "tell me why/how ..." much more commonly than "explain to me why/how". . . ." Could I ask wheter I can't tell: Explain me it. Explain me it = Explain it to me ?Thank you Your question is not very clear but if what you want to ask is if "explain me it" is correct, the answer is no, it is not. Oddly enough, however, at least in colloquial English, you can say "Explain me this" (typically followed by question).Explain me this. How is it that ?Perhaps it's not grammatically correct, but I doubt any native speaker would question its use in conversation. 1-Could you give me that pencil please?2-Could you give that pencil to me?3-Could you explain me the difference?4-Could you expalin the difference to me?Is therefore, the third sentence wrong ? Sentence 3 would not be natural. Whether it is grammatically correct, I don't know. But even if it is correct, you will sound like a foreigner if you use it. "Could you explain to me the difference?" would be correct and natural. 1-Could you give me that pencil please?2-Could you give that pencil to me?3-Could you explain me the difference?4-Could you expalin the difference to me? Edition, second thoughts:However, the first sentence is right: "Could you give me that newspaper over there, please?" Give is an unusual verb - you can say both "give me" and "give to me". It does not function the same as explain. I tell friends to try to connect EXPLAIN and SAY.The normal thing is not to use the indirect object: He said that he was scared. He explained that he was scared.If you do put an indirect object, you must use "to"He said to me that he was scared. He explained to me that he was scared. I agree with Ricardo though, there are a few expressions where we say "explain me" - "explain me this", "explain me something" - although these might be colloquial or incorrect. Nicely explained!! Thanks levmac. >> >_

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