

explain

[ɪk'spleɪn] *v*

1. объяснять

to explain the meaning of a word - объяснить значение слова
 explain this problem to me - объясните мне эту задачу
 explain to me what this means - объясните мне, что это значит

2. оправдываться, давать объяснения

he was unable to explain his conduct - он не смог объяснить своего поведения
 he explained that he had been delayed by the rain - он объяснил, что задержался из-за дождя
 when he has done wrong he never explains - когда он поступает неправильно, он никогда не оправдывается

3. толковать, разъяснять

to explain smb.'s viewpoint - изложить /разъяснить, развить/ чью-л. точку зрения

4. refl

- 1) объясняться
- 2) объяснять своё поведение, свои мотивы *и т. п.*

explain

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ex·plain [explain explains explained explaining] *BrE* [ɪk'spleɪn] *NAme*

[ɪk'spleɪn] *verb*

1. transitive, intransitive to tell sb about sth in a way that makes it easy to understand

- ~ (sth) (to sb) First, I'll explain the rules of the game.
- It was difficult to explain the problem to beginners.
- 'Let me explain!' he added helpfully.
- ~ **that...** I explained that an ambulance would be coming soon.
- ~ **who, how, etc...** He explained who each person in the photo was.
- Can you explain how the email system works?
- ~ **to sb who, how, etc...** She explained to them what to do in an emergency.
- + **speech** 'It works like this,' she explained.
- **it is explained that...** It was explained that attendance was compulsory.

2. intransitive, transitive to give a reason, or be a reason, for sth

- She tried to explain but he wouldn't listen.
- ~ **that...** Alex explained that his car had broken down.
- ~ **why, how, etc...** Well, that doesn't explain why you didn't phone.
- ~ **sth (to sb)** scientific findings that help explain the origins of the universe
- The government now has to explain its decision to the public.
- (*informal*) Oh well then, that **explains it** (= I understand now why sth happened) . You cannot say 'explain me, him, her, etc.'
- Can you explain the situation to me?
- Can you explain me the situation?
- I'll explain to you why I like it.
- I'll explain you why I like it.

Idiom: ↑**explain yourself**

Derived ↑**explain something away**

Verb forms: verb forms

present simple	
I / you / we /they	explain
	<i>BrE</i> /ɪk'spleɪn/
	<i>NAme</i> /ɪk'spleɪn/
he / she /it	explains
	<i>BrE</i> /ɪk'spleɪnz/
	<i>NAme</i> /ɪk'spleɪnz/
past simple, past participle	explained
	<i>BrE</i> /ɪk'spleɪnd/
	<i>NAme</i> /ɪk'spleɪnd/
-ing form	explaining
	<i>BrE</i> /ɪk'spleɪnɪŋ/
	<i>NAme</i> /ɪk'spleɪnɪŋ/

Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Latin **explanare**, based on **planus** 'plain' .

Thesaurus:

explain *verb*

1. T, I

- Pat explained the rules of the game.

spell sth out • **define** • **interpret** • **illustrate** • **shed/cast/throw light on sth** • **formal clarify** • **expound** •

explain/spell out/clarify/expound sth **to sb**

explain/spell out **that...**

explain/spell out/illustrate/shed light on/clarify **how/what/why...**

2. I, T

- The government now has to explain its decision to the public.

justify • **defend** • **account for sth** •

explain/justify/defend/account for sth **to sb**
explain/justify/account for **what/why/how...**
explain/justify/defend/account for a **decision/sb's behaviour**
explain/justify/defend **yourself**

Word Family:

explain verb
explanation noun
explanatory adjective
explicable adjective (≠inexplicable)

Example Bank:

- I explained the issues in great detail.
- I have a letter here which explains everything.
- I know I'm late, but I can explain why.
- It is a book which seeks to explain the birth of Greek tragedy.
- It's difficult to explain exactly how the system works.
- Let me explain what I mean.
- Many theories purport to explain growth in terms of a single cause.
- She explained the plan to me very carefully.
- She saw his quick frown and hastened to explain.
- She tried to explain about her fears and anxieties.
- The doctor explained patiently what the treatment would be.
- The general principles behind the method used are explained clearly and concisely.
- The reasons for the accident have not been fully explained.
- This goes some way towards explaining the hostility between the two groups.
- This partly explains why he was so late.
- This phenomenon can be easily explained.
- 'It was like this,' she explained.
- 'Let me explain,' he continued.
- Ed explained that his car had broken down.
- First, let me explain the rules of the game.
- He explained awkwardly that he had not slept at his own home that night.
- I can explain everything! I was just trying to help her with her homework!
- I really don't see why I should have to explain myself to you.
- I tried to explain the problem to the technician.
- I'll explain the system in greater detail next time.
- Oh well then, that explains it.
- She explained to them what to do in the event of an emergency.
- She tried to explain but he wouldn't listen.
- The official explained patiently that our documents were not valid.
- The rules need to be clearly explained to all newcomers.
- There's no need to explain. We understand.
- Well, that doesn't explain why you didn't call me.

explain

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

ex **plain** **S1 W1** /ɪk'spleɪn/ **BrE** ^ˈ **AmE** ^ˈ verb [intransitive and transitive]

[**Word Family:** adjective: ↑unexplained, ↑explanatory, ↑explicable ≠ ↑inexplicable; noun: explaining, ↑explanation; verb: ↑explain; adverb: ↑inexplicably]

[**Date:** 1500-1600; **Language:** Latin; **Origin:** explanare 'to make level, unfold', from planus 'level, flat']

1. to tell someone about something in a way that is clear or easy to understand:

^ˈ He carefully explained the procedure.

explain (to somebody) why/how/what etc

^ˈ The librarian will explain how to use the catalogue system.

^ˈ Let me explain what I mean.

explain that

^ˈ He explained that it had been a difficult film to make.

explain something to somebody

^ˈ I explained the situation to my bank manager.

▶ You explain something **to** someone: *He explained the system to me (NOT explained me the system).*

2. to give a reason for something or to be a reason for something:

^ˈ Wait! I can explain everything.

^ˈ How can you explain that sort of behaviour?

explain that

^ˈ She explained that she had been ill.

explain why/how/what etc

^ˈ I'll explain why I don't believe your story.

^ˈ That still doesn't explain how he was able to hide the body.

3. explain yourself

a) to tell someone who is angry or upset with you the reasons why you did something:

" I'm going to give you five seconds to explain yourself.

b) to say clearly what you mean:

" Sorry, I'm not explaining myself very well.

...

THESAURUS

- **explain** to give someone the information they need to understand something: She explained how to use the software. | Doctors usually explain the risks of the treatment to patients.
- **tell** to explain something. People often use **tell** instead of **explain** in everyday conversation: He told me how to get to his house. | The book tells you how to improve your health through diet.
- **show** to explain to someone how to do something by doing it while they watch you: Ellen showed me how to work the coffee maker.
- **demonstrate** /'demənstreɪt/ to explain to someone how to do something by doing it while they watch you, especially when it is part of your job: The cabin crew demonstrated the safety procedures to the passengers. | A qualified instructor will demonstrate how to use the equipment properly.
- **go through something** to explain something carefully, especially one step at a time: Mrs. Riddell went through the homework assignment.
- **set out something** to explain a series of ideas, reasons or opinions in an organized way in writing or in a speech: In his speech, he intended to set out the party's policies on education.

explain something ↔ **away** *phrasal verb*

to make something seem less important or bad by giving reasons for it:

" The difference in the treatment they receive is hard to explain away.

explain

Freakuency Pack

12500 **513**^{MCW}

15000 **464**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** EXPLAIN 105028

explain 33288

explained 22896

unexplained 814

explaining 7818

explains 20625

explanation 13711

explanatory 1113

explanations 4763

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

19112 **1540**²⁷⁴³¹ *vvi*

4953 **6257**⁵⁸²¹ *vv0*

15 **199568**¹⁶ *jj*

11 **244704**¹¹ *nn1*

9 **274698**⁹ *nnu*