I'm not a bot

View synonyms for explainto make plain or clear; render understandable or intelligible.to explain an obscure point.to make known in detail.to explain how to do something.to assign a meaning to; interpret.How can you explain such a silly remark?to make clear the cause or reason of; account for.I cannot explain his strange behavior.to diminish or nullify the significance of by explanation.He couldn't explain away his absence from home at the time the robbery was committed.to dispel (doubts, difficulties, etc.) by explanation.She explained away the child's fears.(when tr, may take a clause as object) to make (something) comprehensible, esp by giving a clear and detailed account of the relevant structure, operation, surrounding circumstances, etc(tr) to justify or attempt to justify (oneself) by giving reasons for one's actions or words“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012explainable adjectiveexplainer nounexplanator nounmisexplained adjectivenonexplainable adjectiveoverexplain verbpreexplain verbreexplain verb (used with object)unexplainable adjectiveunexplainably adverbunexplained adjectiveunexplaining adjectivewell-explained adjectiveOrigin of explain1First recorded in 1375–1425; late Middle English explanen, from Latin explānāre “to smooth out, make intelligible, spread out on flat surface”; ex- 1, plane 1Origin of explain1C15: from Latin explānāre to flatten, from plānus levelExamples have not been reviewed.A theologian explained in an eschatological commentary that the mark of Revelation 13:16–17 was not about credit systems or digital payments.North pointed to the adage that “it takes a minute to say a sound bite, but an hour to explain why it is false.”Meister explained that the lack of stickiness on the baseball causes pitchers to squeeze the ball as hard as possible.But Mitchell, whose bushy beard and joking personality complement a perpetually smiling visage, turned serious when explaining the end of his career."For a long time, goalkeeping has been less developed in the women's game," he explained.What are other ways to say explain?To explain something is to make it plain or clear, or to render it understandable or intelligible. How does explain compare to synonyms elucidate, expound, and interpret? Find out on Thesaurus.com.expiscateexplain awayBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Also found in: Thesaurus, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (īk-splān′)v. ex-plained, ex·plain·ing, ex·plains v.tr.1. To make plain or comprehensible.2. To define; expound: We explained our plan to the committee.3. a. To offer reasons for or a cause of; justify: explain an error.b. To offer reasons for the actions, beliefs, or remarks of (oneself).v.intr. To make something plain or comprehensible: Let me explain.Phrasal Verb: explain away To dismiss or minimize the significance of (something) by means of an explanation or excuse: There is no way to explain away my carelessness.[Middle English explanen, from Latin explānāre : ex-, intensive pref.; see ex- + plānus, clear; see pelə- in Indo-European roots.]Synonyms: explain, elucidate, explicate, interpret, construe These verbs mean to make the nature or meaning of something understandable. Explain is the most widely applicable: The professor used a diagram to explain the theory of continental drift. The manual explained how the new software worked. To elucidate is to throw light on something complex: "Man's whole life and environment have been laid open and elucidated" (Thomas Carlyle). Explicate implies detailed and usually learned and lengthy exploration or analysis: "Ordinary language philosophers tried to explicate the standards of usage" (Jerrold J. Katz). To interpret is to reveal the underlying meaning of something by the application of special knowledge or insight: "A radiologist can interpret images made in Saudi Arabia and beamed to Boston, sending back a diagnosis within hours" (Richard Saltus). Construe involves putting a particular construction or interpretation on something: "I take the official oath today ... with no purpose to construe the Constitution or laws by any hypercritical rules" (Abraham Lincoln).American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (ɪkˈsplem) vb1. (when tr, may take a clause as object) to make (something) comprehensible, esp by giving a clear and detailed account of the relevant structure, operation, surrounding circumstances, etc2. (tr) to justify or attempt to justify (oneself) by giving reasons for one's actions or words[C15: from Latin explānāre to flatten, from plānus level]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (ɪkˈsplem) v.t. 1. to make clear or intelligible. 2. to make known in detail. 3. to make clear the cause or reason of; account for: I cannot explain his strange behavior. v.i. 4. to give an explanation. 5. explain away, to diminish the significance of through explanation; justify. [1375–1425; < Latin explānāre to smooth out, make intelligible. See ex-1, plane2] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.If you explain something, you give details about it so that it can be understood.The head teacher should be able to explain the school's teaching policy.You say that you explain something to someone.Let me explain to you about Jackie.We explained everything to the police.Be Careful!You must use to in sentences like these. Don't say, for example, 'Let me explain you about Jackie'.You can use explain with a that-clause to say that someone tells someone else the reason for something.I explained that I was trying to write a book.Collins COBUILD English Usage © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012Past participle: explainedGerund: explainingImperativePresentPreteritePresent ContinuousPresent PerfectPast ContinuousPast PerfectFutureFuture PerfectFuture ContinuousPresent Perfect ContinuousFuture Perfect ContinuousConditionalPast ConditionalCollins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011 Verb1.explain - make plain and comprehensible; "He explained the laws of physics to his students"inform - impart knowledge of some fact, state or affairs, or event to; "I informed him of his rights"rede, interpret - give an interpretation or explanation toaccount for - give reasons for; "Can you account for all these absences?"naturalize - explain with reference to naturecomment - explain or interpret something2.explain - define; "The committee explained their plan for fund-raising to the Dean"say, state, tell - express in words; "He said that he wanted to marry her"; "tell me what is bothering you"; "state your opinion"; "state your name"3.explain - serve as a reason or cause or justification of; "Your need to sleep late does not excuse your late arrival at work"; "Her recent divorce may explain her reluctance to date again"alibi - exonerate by means of an alibivindicate, justify - show to be right by providing justification or proof; "vindicate a claim"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.verb1. make clear or plain, describe, demonstrate, illustrate, teach, define, solve, resolve, interpret, disclose, unfold, clarify, clear up, simplify, expound, elucidate, put into words, throw light on, explicate (formal), give the details of He explained the process to us in simple terms.2. account for, excuse, justify, give a reason for, give an explanation for Can you explain why you didn't telephone me?Quotations"Never explain - your friends do not need it and your enemies will not believe you anyway" [Elbert Hubbard The Motto Book]Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002verb3. To offer reasons for or a cause of:account for, justify, rationalize.phrasal verbexplain away The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. شرحشَرَحَ، فَسَّرَيَشْرَحُيُفَسِّر، يُعْطِي السَّبَبlexplicarexponerjustificaraclarardefenderspiegarespiegazionecommentaredelucidaredichiararebegrunnefinne årsak tilforklaregjøre rede forklarleggeexplicarexplicar-seexplanaroбъяснятьобъяснитьтолковатьCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005Collins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005 vt → erklären (to sb jdm); motives, situation, thoughts → erläutern, erklären; mystery → aufklären; it’s all right, I can explain everything → schon gut, ich kann das alles erklären; that is easy to explain, that is easily explained → das lässt sich leicht erklären; he wanted to see me but wouldn’t explain why → er wollte mich sehen, sagte aber nicht, warum or aus welchem Grunde; so that explains why he didn’t react → ach, das erklärt, warum er nicht reagiert hat Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (ik 'splein) verb1. to make (something) clear or easy to understand. Can you explain the railway timetable to me?; Did she explain why she was late? verduidelik شَرَحَ، فَسَّر обяснявам explicar vysvětlit erklären, erläutern forklare εξηγώexplicar selgitama توضيح دادن selittää expliquer להבהיר [illegible] objasniti, razjasniti (meg)magyaráz menjelaskan útskýra spiegare 説明する paaiškinti paskaidrot jelas uitleggen rede for wyjaśniać توضيح وركول explicar a explica, a làmuri объяснять vysvetlit pojasniti objasniti förklara [illegible] açıklamak 說明 пояснювати واضح كرنا ، سمجھانا giải thích 说明2. to give, or be, a reason for. I cannot explain his failure; That explains his silence. verklaar يُفَسِّر، يُعْطِي السَّبَب обяснявам explicar vysvětlit erklären forklare; begrunde εξηγώ, εμηνεύωexplicar seletama توجيه كردن perustella explique objasniti indokol menjelaskan gefa skýringu á spiegare 理由を述べる … paaiškinti izskaidrot menjelaskan verklarenklarlegge, begrunne, finne årsak tilwytłumaczyć وجه وركول explicar a explica, a justifica объяснять vysvetlit razložiti objasniti förklara [illegible] açıklamak 解釋 пояснювати کسی چیز کا سبب بتانا giải thích 解释explanation (ekspləˈneiʃən) nounexˈplanatory (-ˈsplænə-) adjective giving an explanati explanatory notes in this book. verklarend تفسيري، إيضاحي обяснителен explicativo vysvětlující erklärend forklarende επεξηγηματικός explicativo selgitav توضيحي selittävä explicatif מְאַיֵּר [illegible] koji tumači, razjašnjava (meg)magyarázó menjelaskan skýringar- esplicativo 説明の aiškinamasis []skaidrojošs catatan keterangan verklarendforklarende objaśniający توضيحي explicativo explicativ пояснит vysvětlující pojasnjevalen koji objašnjava förklarande [illegible] açıklayıcı 解釋的 пояснювальний; тлумачний توضيحي mang tính giải thích 解释的explain away to get rid of (difficulties etc) by clever explaining. She could not explain away the missing money. goedpraat, wegredeneer تجد التفسير давам задоволително обяснение dar uma explicação (dostatečně) vysvětlit vertuschen bortforklare δικαιολο dar explicaciones õigustust leidma توجيه كردن antaa selitys justifier להסיר סקפ [illegible] objasniti, razjasniti kimagyaráz (vmit) memberi alasan gera efasemdir/ótta að engu með útskýringum spiegare, giustificare 言い抜ける ( ) pagrįsti, paaiškinti attaisnot menjelaskan wegredeneren bortforklareusprawiedliwić, wyjaśnić سبيول dar uma explicação a justifica находить объяснение (uspokoji upravičiti opravdati bortförklara [illegible] açıklama giải thích 解释Multilingual Translator © HarperCollins Publishers 2009vt. explicar, aclarar; ___ the procedure → explique el procedimiento. English-Spanish Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012Collins Multilingual Translator © HarperCollins Publishers 2009 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: "Explain! Tell a man to explain how he dropped into hell!Ostrinski asked where he lived, offering to walk in that direction; and so he had to explain once more that he was without a home.I will explain; the enjoyment was just from the too intense consciousness of one's own degradation; it was from feeling oneself that one had reached the last barrier, that it was horrible, but that it could not be otherwise; that there was no escape for you; that you never could become a different man; that even if time and faith were still left you to change into something different you would most likely not wish to change; or if you did wish to, even then you would do nothing; because perhaps in reality there was nothing for you to change into.Major Thomson seemed in no hurry to explain himself.How do you explain it, John Carter, Warlord of Mars, or do you try to explain it?""But how will you explain Mohammed Beyd's death?" she asked.I think favourable means of dispersal explain this fact.He would have liked to interrupt Metrov, to explain his own thought, which in his opinion would have rendered further exposition of Metrov's theories superfluous.`I'm going to wash and dress, and then I'll come down and explain things.No more can it be explained than can a human explain why, at luncheon to-day, he selects green peas and rejects string beans, when only yesterday he elected to choose string beans and to reject green peas.They took advantage of this fact to explain to them that this distance was obtained by measuring the parallax of the moon.But his self-control was more than I could explain. Closing the door of his room, he motioned me to a chair and, seating himself before me, took out his pipe. Princeton's WordNet0.0 / 0 votesexplain, explicateverbmake plain and comprehensible"He explained the laws of physics to his students"explainverbdefine"The committee explained their plan for fund-raising to the Dean"excuse, explainverbserve as a reason or cause or justification of"Your need to sleep late does not excuse your late arrival at work"; "Her recent divorce may explain her reluctance to date again"Wiktionary0.0 / 0 votesexplainverbTo give a sufficiently detailed report about (a) the reason for something, about why something happened, about a causal chain of events; about (b) how something works, about how elements in a system interact; about (c) how to do something, about the steps which need to be accomplished in order to accomplish a certain goal.explainverbTo give a valid excuse for some past behavior.explainverbTo make flat, smooth out.explainverbTo unfold or make visible.Etymology: explanen, from explaner, from explanō, from ex- + planō, from planus; see plain and plane. Compare esplanade, splanade. Displaced native arecchen, irecchen (from areccan, gereccan).Samuel Johnson's Dictionary0.0 / 0 votesTo EXPLAINverbTo expound; to illustrate; to clear by notes or commentaries.Etymology: explano, Latin.Such is the original design, however we may explain it away. John Ayliffe, Parergon. You will have variety of commentators to explain the difficult passages to you. John Gay. Some explain’d the meaning quite away. Alexander Pope.ChatGPT0.0 / 0 votesexplainTo explain means to make something clear, understandable, or comprehensible by providing information, details, or reasoning. It involves breaking down a concept, idea, process, or situation into simpler terms or steps in order to convey meaning or clarify any confusion. The purpose of explaining is to help others gain knowledge, insight, or a deeper understanding of a particular topic or issue.Webster Dictionary3.5 / 2 votesExplainadjectiveto flatten; to spread out; to unfold; to expandExplainadjectiveto make plain, manifest, or intelligible; to clear of obscurity; to expound; to unfold and illustrate the meaning of; as, to explain a chapter of the BibleExplainverbto give an explanationChambers 20th Century Dictionary0.0 / 0 votesExplaineks-plān′, v.t. to make plain or intelligible: to unfold and illustrate the meaning of: to expound: to account for.—adj. Ėxplain′able, that may be explained or cleared up.—ns. Ėxplain′er, one who explains; Explanā′tion, act of explaining or clearing from obscurity: that which explains or clears up: the meaning or sense given to anything: a mutual clearing up of matters.—adv. Explan′atorily.—adj. Explan′atory, serving to explain or clear up: containing explanations.—Explain away, to modify the force of by explanation, generally in a bad sense. [O. Fr. explaner—L. explanāre—ex, out, planāre—planus, plain.]Editors Contribution1.0 / 1 voteexplainTo use words to provide data, detail, an answer, response, proof or information.The government are asked to explain the reason for their efficient and effective increase in revenue.Submitted by MaryC on February 14, 2020 Matched CategoriesBritish National CorpusSpoken Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Explain' in Spoken Corpus Frequency: #1356Written Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Explain' in Written Corpus Frequency: #1107Verbs FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'Explain' in Verbs Frequency: #119Usage in printed sourcesFrom: How to pronounce Explain?How to say Explain in sign language?NumerologyChaldean NumerologyThe numerical value of Explain in Chaldean Numerology is: 1Pythagorean NumerologyThe numerical value of Explain in Pythagorean Numerology is: 9Jeannette Rankin:How shall we explain to [women] the meaning of democracy if the same Congress that voted for war to make the world safe for democracy refuses to give this small measure of democracy to the women of our country?Al Franken:I think Sen. Sessions should come back. I think he owes it to this committee to come back. And he should explain himself.John Ratcliffe:Frankly, there are a lot more sightings than have been made public, we are talking about objects that have been seen by Navy or Air Force pilots, or have been picked up by satellite imagery, that frankly engage in actions that are difficult to explain, movements that are hard to replicate, that we don't have the technology for or are traveling at speeds that exceed the sound barrier without a sonic boom.Rosemary Collyer:I'm not asking you to give me your brief. I want you to explain ... why it's not an insult to the Constitution?German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble:We were both friendly and polite ... He told me his position, which he has repeatedly said in recent days, and I tried to explain our position to him and we were not able to bridge the differences. References شرح, يشرح, فسر Arabicобяснявам, давам обяснения Bulgarianexplicar Catalan, Valencianvysvětlit Czecherklären, erläuternGermanεξηγώGreekklarigi Esperantoexplicar Spanishتوضيح دادن Persianselittää, selostaa Finnishexpliquer, Explique, justifier Frenchexplicar Galicianהסביר Hebrew[illegible] Hindimagyarázó Hungarianexplikar Idospiegare, illustrare, chiosare Italianלהסביר Hebrew説明 Japanese, Koreanşayesandin, derbirin, saloxandin, vegotin Kurdishexplicō Latinskaidrot Latvianwhakamārama, whakamahuki Māoriuitleggen verklaren Dutchexplicar Occitanexplanar, explicar Portuguesesealayrichiy Quechuaexplica Romanianобъяснить, объяснять, оправдывать, оправдать Russianобјаснити, objàsniti, rasvijetliti, расвијетлити Serbo-Croatianpojasniti Sloveneförklara Swedish[illegible] Telugu[illegible], [illegible] Thainояснити Ukrainianاس بات کی و, سمجھانا Urdugiải thích Vietnamese - Select - 简体中文 (Chinese - Simplified) 繁體中文 (Chine Traditional) Español (Spanish) Esperanto (Esperanto) 日本語 (Japanese) Português (Portuguese) Deutsch (German) العربية (Arabic) Français (French) Русский (Russian) [illegible] (Kannada) [illegible] (Korean) עברית (Hebrew) Gaeilge (Irish) Українська (Ukrainian) اردو (Urdu) Magyar (Hungarian) [illegible] (Hindi) Indonesia (Indonesian) Italiano (Italian) [illegible] (Tamil) Türkçe (Turkish) [illegible] (Telugu) [illegible] Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) Čeština (Czech) Polski (Polish) Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian) Românește (Romanian) Nederlands (Dutch) Ελληνικά (Greek) Latinum (Latin) Svenska (Swedish) Dansk (Danish) Suomi (Finnish) فارسی (Persian) יידיש (Yiddish) հայերեն (Armenian) Norsk (Norwegian) English (English) View synonyms for explanationthe act or process of explaining.Synonyms: description, interpreta exposition, explication, elucidationsomething that explains; a statement made to clarify something and make it understandable; exposition.an explanation of a poem.a meaning or interpretation.to find an explanation for a mystery.Synonyms: answer, key, solutiona mutual declaration of the meaning of words spoken, actions, motives, etc., with a view to adjusting a misunderstanding or reconciling differences.After a long and emotional explanation they were friends again.the act or process of explaininga statement or occurrence that explainsa clarification of disputed terms or points; reconciliation“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012overexplanation nounpreexplanation nounreexplanation nounOrigin of explanation1First recorded in 1350–1400; Middle English explanacioun, from Latin explānātiōn-, stem of explānātiō, from explānāt(us) “made understandable” (past participle of explānāre “to smooth out, make understandable”) + -iō -ion; explainExamples have not been reviewed.Those actions require advance notice of 90 days to Congress, which includes providing factual support and explanations for each of the proposed actions of abolishment.The guidelines add: "If, after careful consideration, we find that we are unable to provide advice or representation, we will give you a clear and detailed explanation as to why we have taken this decision."The overstretched agency has closed workplace complaints and accident reports without conducting an on-site inspection or sufficient explanation, the audit found.A spokesman for the district attorney’s office did not provide an explanation.Colbert told viewers The Late Show's cancellation was ultimately a financial decision - which is certainly a credible explanation.explanateexplanatoryBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC

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