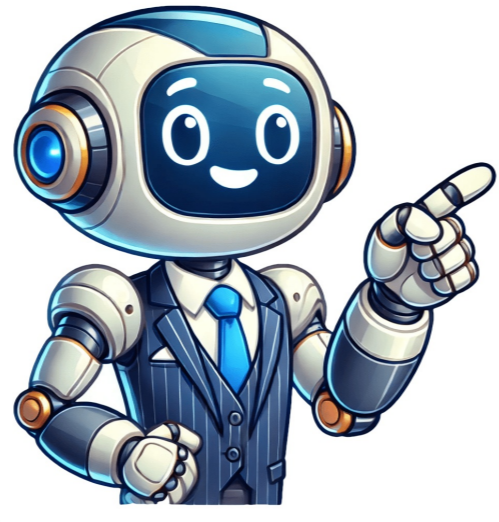


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jump to other results used in questions to ask the reason for or purpose of somethingWhy were you late?Tell me why you did it.I would like you to go. Why me? (informal) Why oh why do people keep leaving the door open? used in questions to suggest that it is not necessary to do somethingWhy get upset just because you got one bad grade?Why bother to write? We'll see him tomorrow. used to give or talk about a reasonThat's why I left so early.I know you did it!I just want to know why.The reason why the injection needs repeating every year is that the virus changes.Express Yourself Giving reasons, justifying a choiceGiving reasons, justifying a choiceIn various exams, you are asked to make a choice and give reasons for it. In conversation or in a meeting, you may need to explain and justify your decisions:There are two main reasons why I think its the best option: first, there's the cost and second, the quality.I believe it's the right thing to do because it gives everyone a fair chance.I would choose the newer one on the grounds that it will last longer.Of the three houses, the largest one seems to me to be the best, because they need the room.My choice would be number 3, simply because it's the clearest design. Word OriginOld English hw, hwy by what cause, instrumental case of hwt what, of Germanic origin Idioms used in questions to mean why, expressing surpriseWhy ever didn't you tell us before? used to make or agree to a suggestionWhy not write to her?Let's eat out. Why not?Why don't we go together?Topics Suggestions and advice2 See why in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee why in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Nearby words whup verb wh-word noun why adverb why exclamation why noun Also found in: Thesaurus, Acronyms, Idioms, Wikipedia. (w, hw)adv. For what purpose, reason, or cause; with what intention, justification, or motive: Why is the door shut? Why do birds sing?conj.1. The reason, cause, or purpose for which: I know why you left.2. Usage Problem On account of which; for which.n. pl. whys 1. The cause or intention underlying a given action or situation: studying the whys of antisocial behavior.2. A difficult problem or question.interj. Used to express mild surprise, indignation, or impatience.[Middle English, from Old English hw, used kwo- in Indo-European roots.]Usage Note: A traditional rule states that why is redundant in the expression reason why, as in The reason why he accepted the nomination is not clear. It is true that why could be eliminated from such examples with no loss to the meaning, and that that could be used instead of why, but reason why has been used by reputable English writers since the Renaissance, and a majority of the Usage Panel accepts the construction. In our 2009 survey, 55 percent accepted the example quoted above. Higher percentages accepted examples in which reason is modified by a, any, or another instead of the. . For instance, 67 percent accepted the example Is there any reason why this drug enforcement program should work? While there is certainly no harm in observing this rule in one's own writing, insisting on it in the writing of others may seem petty. See Usage Note at where.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. (wa) adva. for what reason, purpose, or cause?: why are you here? b. (used in indirect questions): tell me why you're here. pronoun or because of which: there is no reason why he shouldn't come. n. pl whys (usually plural) the reason, purpose, or cause of something (esp in the phrase the whys and wherefores)interj an introductory expression of surprise, disagreement, indignation, etc.: why, don't be silly! [Old English hw; related to Old Norse hv, Gothic hveileiks what kind of, Latin qu]Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (wa, wa) adv., conj., n., pl. whys, interj. adv. 1. for what? for what reason or purpose?: Why do you ask? conj. 2. for what cause or reason: I don't know why he left. 3. for which; on account of which (usu. after reason to introduce a relative clause): the reason why she refused to go. 4. the reason for which: That is why he returned. n. 5. a question concerning the cause or reason for which something is done, achieved, etc.: a child's unending whys. 6. the cause or reason: the whys and wherefores of the Cold War. interj. 7. (used as an expression of surprise, hesitation, etc., or sometimes a mere expletive): Why, it's all gone! [before 900; Middle English: Old English hw, hw, instr. case of hwt what; c. Old Norse hv] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.1. used in questionsYou use why when you are asking a question about the reason for something.'I had to say no.' 'Why?'Why did you do it, Marta?2. used when no answer is expectedYou sometimes use why in questions without expecting an answer. For example, you can make a suggestion by asking a question beginning with Why don't.Why don't you write to her yourself?You can emphasize that there is no reason for something to be done by asking a question beginning with Why should.Why would he be angry with you?Will you say sorry? 'No, why should I?'You can emphasize that there is no reason why something should not be done by asking a question beginning with Why shouldn't.Why shouldn't you write to college?You can suggest that an action is pointless by using why followed by an infinitive without to.Why tell the police? It won't do any good.3. used in reported clausesWhy is often used in reported clauses.He wondered why she had come.You never really told me why you don't like him.Why can be used on its own instead of a reported clause, if it is clear what you mean. For example, instead of saying 'She doesn't like him. I don't know why she doesn't like him', you can say 'She doesn't like him. I don't know why'.They refuse to come I don't know why.He's certainly cheerful, though I can't think why.4. used in relative clausesWhy is sometimes used in relative clauses with the word reason.That is one reason why they were such a successful team.Collins COBUILD English Usage HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012 Noun1.why - the cause or intention underlying an action or situation, especially in the phrase 'the whys and wherefores'reason, ground - a rational motive for a belief or action; "the reason that war was declared"; "the grounds for their declaration"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.noun.2. A fact or circumstance that gives logical support to an assertion, claim, or proposal:argument, ground (often used in plural), proof, reason, wherefore.Idiom: why and wherefore.3. What one intends to do or achieve:aim, ambition, design, end, goal, intent, intention, mark, meaning, object, objective, point, purpose, target, view.Idioms: end in view, why and wherefore.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. : warumwiesoweshalbweswegenaf hverjuaf hverju, hvers vegnastahvers vegna, af hverjunperchdiamineil perchper quale ragioneperchpor quepor que motivoporquPorqu? niinniye-in sebebi/nedenineden [wa]B. EXCL toma!, anda!why, it's you! toma, eres ti, anda, eres t!why, what's the matter? bueno, qu pasa?why, there are 8 of us! si somos 8!why, it's easy! vamos, es muy facil.C. N the whys and (the) wherefores el porquWhy can usually be translated by por qu; Why didn't you come? Por qu no viniste? They asked her why she hadn't finished her report Le preguntaron por qu no haba terminado el informe!Remember the difference in spelling between por qu (why) and porque (because).To ask specifically about the purpose of something, you can translate why using para qu; Why go if we are not needed? Para qu vamos a ir si no nos necesitan?In statements, you can translate (the reason) why using por qu, la razn (por la que) or el motivo (por el que). Tell me (the reason) why you don't want to accept the proposal Dime por qu or la razn por la que or el motivo por el que no quieres aceptar la propuesta!Translate that's why using por eso. That's why they wouldn't pay Por eso no queran pagar.Like all question words in Spanish, porqu can function as a masculine noun. Note that in el porqu, porqu is written as one word: I'd like to know why he's absent or the reason for his absence Me gustara saber el porqu de su ausenciaCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [hwa] adv (in questions) pourquoiWhy did you do that? Pourquoi avez-vous fait a?Why is he late? Pourquoi est-il en retard?Tell me why Dis-moi pourquoi.I've never been to France. - Why not? Je ne suis jamais all en France. - Pourquoi?All right, why not? D'accord, pourquoi pas? (in relative clauses) pourquoiThat's why he did it Voil pourquoi il a fait a.the reason why sb did sth la raison pour laquelle qn a fait qchShe never told me the reason why she left Elle ne m'a jamais dit pourquoi elle tait partie.She left, and nobody knows the reason why Elle est partie et personne ne sait pourquoi.Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005 adv warum, weshalb; (asking for the purpose) wozu; (= how come that ) wieso; why not ask him? warum fragst du/fragen wir etc ihn nicht?; why wait? warum or wozu (noch) warten?: why do it this way? warum denn so?; that's why darum, deshalb, deswegen; that's exactly why genau deshalb or deswegen interj why, of course, that's right! ja doch or aber sicher, das stimmt so!; are you sure? why yes (of course!) think so) sind Sie sicher? aber ja doch; why that's easy! na, das ist doch einfach!; take the bus! why, its only a short walk den Bus nehmen? ach was, das ist doch nur ein Katzensprung; why, if it isnt Charles! na so was, das ist doch (der) Charles!; who did it? why its obvious wer das war? na or also, das ist doch klar n the whys and (the) wherefores das Warum und WeshalbCollins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005, William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [wa]1. adv & conj perchwhy is he always late? perch sempre in ritardo?I wonder why he said that mi chiedo perch l'abbia dettowhy not do it now? perch non farlo adesso?why don't you come too? perch non vieni anche tu?there's no reason why ... non c' motivo per cui...+ subwhy (ever) not? perch no?so that's why he did it! ecco perch l'ha fatto!3. n the whys and (the) wherefores le ragioni or i motiviwhy the and the how il perch e il percomeCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (wa) adverb for which reason (?). 'Why did you hit the child?'. 'He hit the child.'. 'Why?'. 'Why haven't you finished?'. 'I haven't finished.'. 'Why not?'. 'Let's go to the cinema.'. 'Why not?' (= 'Let's!'); Tell me why you came here. heokom porqu por warum hvorfor por qu miks miksi pourquoi, zato nirt? mengapa af hverju, hvers vegna perch , kodl kpc; kd mengapa waaromhvorfordlaczego porqu de ce ; preo zakaj zato varfr neden, niin, niye ? ti sao relative pronoun for which. Give me one good reason why I should help you! heokom : porque por warum hvorfor , por qu misprast mink thden pour lequell, pour laquelle zato, zbog ega ami miatt mengapa hvers vegna, af hverju perch, per cui, per il quale ... kodl kd kenapa waaromhvorfordlaczego porque pentru care preo zaradi esar zato varfr ...-in sebebi/nedeni ti sao Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. pro hvorfor warum por qu miksi pourquoi zato perch waarom hvorfor dlaczego por que motivo, Porqu? varfr niin ti sao 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: I was in such an irritated frame of mind that in rude and abrupt fashion I blurted out a question as to "why our Marquis de Griers had ceased to accompany her for strolls, or to speak to her for days together.""Yes-- and I suppose you want to know why," she replied with dry captiousness."Then why have you written all this?" you will say to me.The stupid ones die like oxen, they know not why. It is quite funny to see. The embers of the great fire had so far burned themselves out and now glowed so low and dusky that I understood why these conspirators desired a torch They inflame one another, and know not why! They tinkle with their pinchbeck, they jingle with their gold.She never told me why, and I couldn't make it out no way.Why, if I were a man, I could never care for anyone else after knowing you. I am not finessing, and I am not in the least afraid of telling you; but I don't see the slightest reason why I should not have written.""See here, child, who are you, and why are you speaking to me every day?"Why had she toyed with the threatening catastrophe?Tkhon scratched his back with one hand and his head with the other, then suddenly his whole face expanded into a beaming, foolish grin, disclosing a gap where he had lost a tooth (that was why he was called Shcherbaty- the gap-toothed). 2. used to offer a suggestion or to say that a course of action is not necessary If you don't want to go, why not just say so? Instead of calling, why not e-mail instead? Why should I care about that? Why don't you come over for dinner? [=we would like to have you over for dinner] You deserve the best treatment. Why settle for less? [=you shouldn't be happy with anything less] I'll try calling again. Why bother? 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