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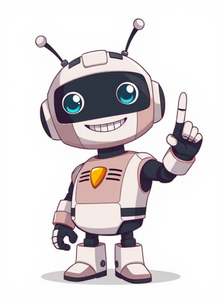

View synonyms for explainto make plain or clear; render understandable or intelligible.to explain an obscure point.to make known in detail.to explain how to do something.to assign a meaning to; interpret.How can you explain such a silly remark?to make clear the cause or reason of; account for.I cannot explain his strange behavior.explain awayto 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 wordsCollins 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 13751425; late Middle English explanen, from Latin explnre to smooth out, make intelligible, spread out on flat surface; ex- 1, plane 1Origin of explain1C15: from Latin explnre to flatten, from plnus levelExamples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.Mr Male explained there was a strong community of "excel geeks" across the world, but said they were "ready to find talent in the west".Pathway has identified what Stamirowska calls equations of reasoning, fundamental mathematical axioms that explain how intelligence emerges from smaller, local interactions in the brain, she said.Read more on The Wall Street Journal"It shouldn't be any secret that I used AI-assisted vocal processing to transform solely my voice for I Run," Walker explained.Like, I know this is hard to explain, she said, giggling at the comprehensiveness of his ignorance.Read more on Los Angeles TimesI was not looking for people to be singing in any perfect way, Gunadttir explains.Read more on Los Angeles TimesWhat are other ways to sayexplain?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#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Q:What is the difference between explain and clarify ?A:I could 'explain' something to you. If you don't understand, you could then ask my to 'clarify' what I have just explained - to simplify it, make it easier to understand.Q:What is the difference between explain and discribe ?A:Explain means to teach someone a concept or possibly clear up a misunderstandingDescribe can be used in a similar way, but it more deals with giving details and characteristics about a person/place/thing. For example, a police officer might ask you for a description of someone who committed a crime (height, weight, age..)Q:What is the difference between explain and splain ?A:it's true what she said, 'splain' can be combined with a subject like mansplain, and it seems to be a informal way of the word explain. I did a little bit of research and that is what I found. To be honest, i didn't know that word existed xD.Q:What is the difference between explain and illustrate ?A:Both of them are ways to give someone more information on the subject you are discussing. To "illustrate" the idea, you typically draw a picture, or provide a visual idea. Illustrating something is a form of explanation, however typically when you just explain , it is just verbal.Q:What is the difference between explain it to... and explain it for... ? A:Okay, Use explain it to (when you need to explain something to someone.) Use explain it for (when someone else can't explain something so you do it for them.)HiNative is a platform for users to exchange their knowledge about different languages and cultures. Also found in: Thesaurus, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (k-spln)v. explained, explaining, explains 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 explnre : ex-, intensive pref.; see ex- + plnus, clear; see pel- 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. (ksplen) 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 explnre to flatten, from plnus level]Collins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (ksplen) 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. [13751425; < Latin explnre 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 ContinuousPast 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 awayThe American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. explicarexponerjustificaraclarardefenderspiegarespiegazionecommentaredelucidaredichiararebegrunnefinne rsak tilforklaregjre rede forklarleggeexplicarexplicar-seexplanarCollins 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 erklren (to sb jdm); motives, situation, thoughts erlutern, erklren; mystery aufklren; its all right, I can explain everything schon gut, ich kann das alles erklren; that is easy to explain, that is easily explained das lsst sich leicht erklren; he wanted to see me but wouldnt explain why er wollte mich sehen, sagte aber nicht, warum or aus welchem Grunde; so that explains why he didnt react ach, das erklrt, 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 (iksplein) 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 explicar vysvtlit erklren, erlutern forklare explicar selgitama selitt expliquer objasniti, razjasniti (meg)magyarz menjelaskan tskra spiegare paaikinti paskaidrot jelas uitleggenforklare, gjre rede for wyjania explicar a explica, a lmuri vysvetli pojasniti objasniti frklara aklamak gii thch 2. to give, or be, a reason for. I cannot explain his failure; That explains his silence. verklaar explicar vysvtlit erklren forklare; begrunde , explicar seletama perustella expliquer , objasniti indokol menjelaskan gefa skringu spiegare paaikinti izskaidrot menjelaskan verklarenklarlegge, begrunne, finne rsak tilwytumaczy explicar a explica, a justifica vysvetli razloiti objasniti frklara aklamak gii thch explanation (eksplnein) nounexplanatory (-spln-) adjective giving an explanation. There are explanatory notes in this book. verklarend explicativo vysvtlujc erklrend forklarende explicativo selgitav selittv explicatif koji tumai, razjanjava (meg)magyarz menjelaskan skringar- esplicativo aikinamasis []skaidrojos catatan keterangan verklarendforklarende objaniajcy explicativo explicativ vysvetujci pojasnjevalen koji objanjava frklarande aklayc ; mang tnh gii thch explain away to get rid of (difficulties etc) by clever explaining. She could not explain away the missing money. goedpraat, wegredeneer dar uma explicao (dostaten) vysvtlit vertuschen bortforklare dar explicaciones igustust leidma antaa selitys justifier objasniti, razjasniti kimagyarz (vmit) memberi alasan gera efasemdir/tta a engu me tskringum spiegare, giustificare ( ) pagrsti, paaikinti attaisnot menjelaskan wegredeneren bortforklareusprawiedliwi, wyjani dar uma explicao a justifica (uspokojivo) vysvetli upraviiti opravdati bortfrklara aklama yaparak syrlmak () thanh minh Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. vysvtlit forklare erklren explicar selitt expliquer objasniti spiegare uitleggen forklare wyjani explicar, explicar-se frklara aklamak gii thch 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. WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025explain/ksplen/USA pronunciation v. to make clear or understandable: [~+object]Please explain your plan.[~+(that) clause]I explained that the mistakes were my own. to give the cause or reason of; account for: [~+object]How do you explain such rude behavior?[no object]I asked her to explain. explain away, [~+away+object] to lessen the importance or significance of through explanation; justify:She explained away her rude behavior as a joke. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025explain (ik spln),USA pronunciationv.t. to 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. v.i.to give an explanation. explain away: 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. Latin explnre to smooth out, make intelligible, spread out on flat surface. See ex-1, plane1 late Middle English explanen 13751425 explainable, adj. explainer, explanator (ekspl ntr),USA pronunciationn. 1. explicate. Explain, elucidate, expound, interpret imply making the meaning of something clear or understandable. To explain is to make plain, clear, or intelligible something that is not known or understood:to explain a theory or a problem.To elucidate is to throw light on what before was dark and obscure, usually by illustration and commentary and sometimes by elaborate explanation:They asked him to elucidate his statement.To expound is to give a methodical, detailed, scholarly explanation of something, usually Scriptures, doctrines, or philosophy:to expound the doctrine of free will.To interpret is to give the meaning of something by paraphrase, by translation, or by an explanation based on personal opinion:to interpret a poem or a symbol. 4. justify. Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers::explain /ksplen/ vb (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 (transitive) to justify or attempt to justify (oneself) by giving reasons for one's actions or wordsEtymology: 15th Century: from Latin explnre to flatten, from plnus levelexplainable adj explainer n 1[transitive, intransitive] to tell someone about something in a way that makes it easy to understand explain (something) (to somebody) First, I'll explain the rules of the game. It was difficult to explain the problem to beginners. I'll be happy to explain, he added helpfully. explain that I explained that an ambulance would be coming soon. explain who, how, etc He explained who each person in the photo was. Can you explain how the e-mail system works? explain to somebody who, how, etc She explained to them what to do in an emergency. + speech It works like this, she explained. 2[intransitive, transitive] to give a reason, or be a reason, for something She tried to explain but he wouldn't listen. explain that Alex explained that his car had broken down. explain why, how, etc Well, that doesn't explain why you didn't call. explain something (to somebody) 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 something 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. explain verbexplanation nounexplanatory adjectiveexplicable adjective (inexplicable)explain verbexplanation nounexplanatory adjectiveexplicable adjective (inexplicable)Idioms 1to give someone reasons for your behavior, especially when they are angry or upset because of it I really don't see why I should have to explain myself to you. 2to say what you mean in a clear way Could you explain yourself a little moreI didn't understand. Phrasal Verbsexplain awaySee explain in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Explain how the photosynthesis and cellular respiration reactions are related to each other.

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