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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 that The 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 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 Owlmat'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. Hello! I wonder if I have to use 'to' when I write explain. Context: an informal email. Hee Lucas! Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you. Do I have to use to between the verb and the object? Thanks a lot. explain 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'. Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you.... In that case, "you" becomes the direct object of the verb. That is, What is explained? You are explained. In the old TV show I Love Lucy, the character Ricky Ricardo (Cuban) was famous for telling Lucy 'Lemme 'splain you something' (= Let me explain you something). It was grammatically wrong, which is why it was funny. The correct form is "Let me explain something to you." Let me explain to you about Jackie. I must say that I would not know how to, um, explain to an English learner why you can say "Let me tell you about Jackie," but not "Let me explain you about Jackie." That's beyond me, too. I guess it's the same answer as what I gave a Japanese friend who asked me, "If we say 'yesterday was Saturday' and 'today is Sunday,' why do we say 'tomorrow is Monday' rather than 'will be Monday'?" Porque si. Then, Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you is not correct, right? Sorry, I'm very confused. Last edited: Oct 17, 2022 hen, Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you is not correct, right? Sorry, I'm very confused. You are correct. "I'm going to explain you" is wrong, except in the unlikely event that you intend to say "I am going to describe your personality and behavior to some other person." Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you is not correct, right? User has already answered your question, but I'll add that "explain" doesn't fit that sentence anyway. We would use tell you about it, describe it [for you], etc. "Explain" never takes an indirect object, but it allows an adjunct in the form of a prepositional phrase: I'm going to explain that to you. I'm going to explain that to you for the record. I'm going to explain you that. Thanks a lot! That was very useful. This sentence is my own. I'm not sure if 'to' 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: Oct 17, 2022 I must say that I would not know how to, um, explain to an English learner why you can say "Let me tell you about Jackie," but not "Let me explain you about Jackie." That's beyond me, too. I guess it's the same answer as what I gave a Japanese friend who asked me, "If we say 'yesterday was Saturday' and 'today is Sunday,' why do we say 'tomorrow is Monday' rather than 'will be Monday'?" Porque si. Then, Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you is not correct, right? Sorry, I'm very confused. You are correct. "I'm going to explain you" is wrong, except in the unlikely event that you intend to say "I am going to describe your personality and behavior to some other person." Last weekend was wild. I'm going to explain you is not correct, right? 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The context is as follows: For medical physicians it's 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 z Explain x with z Explain x through z "They have tried to explain his sleepiness by(?) everything, just not by(?) his hard work." 百度知识提示消息 知道宝贝找不到问题了>

"Informed" "explained to". Thank you Myrdon. Your message is quite clear to me. I understand that both sentences are correct. Both sentences are correct, but their meanings are different. When I inform you of something, I simply give you the facts. Maybe you understand the facts or the reason for the facts, maybe you don't, but that's not my concern. I can inform my students, for example, that their final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm. That's all. When I explain something, I also give the reasons for the facts. "The final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm, because all classes at our university that meet at 9 am on Tuesday and Thursday will have their final exams at that time." Or, "The final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm, because a check of all your schedules showed that everyone can take it at that time." Or, inform: "Our restaurant is closed." Explain: "Our restaurant is usually open at this hour, but it is closed to the public today because it was booked for a private party." In this case, it seems that the teacher is informing the students that her decision is final, but she is not explaining why. Both of your sentences are correct. This is just my attempt to explain this grammar point to you. When you use explain and an indirect object [i.o.], you need to use explain to vs. just explain. Notice the difference when I use explain in this example as a direct object: I explain the book [direct object]. You would not say: I explain the girl/her students[direct object—it is a very, very rare occasion that you would ever use it in that way]. Without explain to, it would be the "direct object with this verb. She explains the book [d.o.] to her students [i.o.]. In general, it is always understood then that even when the d.o is not there, when you mention a person it would be an i.o. and require to with explain. The verb inform [like tell] doesn't need the to after it when what follows is a person. [I inform/tell him X. < Not English. > It almost always that you tell something [d.o.] to someone [i.o.], even though the to is not there AND it is always understood when you mention a person after it. Simplified: Explain + explain to him/her/them/their friends/etc. [Will almost always be the case—see explanation above.] Inform + inform him/her/them/their friends/etc. [Will almost always be referring to the i.o., and to is sort of understood, without it being there, like most verbs of telling. [< Not English. >] I hope this did more to help, rather than confuse you. My personal, meager attempt, thanks for the message. Will reply later. Last edited by a moderator: Apr 26, 2012 Both of your sentences are correct. This is just my attempt to explain this grammar point to you. When you use explain and an indirect object [i.o.], you need to use explain to vs. just explain. Notice the difference when I use explain in this example as a direct object: I explain the book [direct object]. You would not say: I explain the girl/her students[direct object—it is a very, very rare occasion that you would ever use it in that way]. Without explain to, it would be the "direct object with this verb. She explains the book [d.o.] to her students [i.o.]. In general, it is always understood then that even when the d.o is not there, when you mention a person it would be an i.o. and require to with explain. The verb inform [like tell] doesn't need the to after it when what follows is a person. [I inform/tell him X. < Not English. > It almost always that you tell something [d.o.] to someone [i.o.], even though the to is not there AND it is always understood when you mention a person after it. 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Maybe you understand the facts or the reason for the facts, maybe you don't, but that's not my concern. I can inform my students, for example, that their final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm. That's all. When I explain something, I also give the reasons for the facts. "The final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm, because all classes at our university that meet at 9 am on Tuesday and Thursday will have their final exams at that time." Or, "The final exam will be on May 17th at 1:30 pm, because a check of all your schedules showed that everyone can take it at that time." Or, inform: "Our restaurant is closed." Explain: "Our restaurant is usually open at this hour, but it is closed to the public today because it was booked for a private party." In this case, it seems that the teacher is informing the students that her decision is final, but she is not explaining why. Good evening Egmont and thanks for your clear explanation. I confess I didn't realize about the difference in meaning. Now I do. I am just curious what forms everyone uses because I have seen people use various forms. So I want you to read the following sentence: A) Please explain to me how to do this math problem. > a native speaker I usually say "explain to me" or "explain". I have seen some native speakers say "explain me". So my question is, which forms do you use? I explain ii) explain to me iii) explain me Thank you all in advance I also find "explain me" strange. To me, it sounds like I am asking someone to explain me (that is... why am I here? why do I exist? explain what I am about) "Hi rox I would only say i) or ii). I agree that iii) is odd and I don't think I have ever heard a native say it before. I have, and it struck me as really odd: Paul Buchmann in Mad About You. i) is normal. iv) is acceptable: Please tell me how to do this math problem. Can you say "explain me something" as in "bring me something" or is it "explain something to me"? If you can indeed (if you indeed can't) then can you also say "explain me why you weren't here" or does it have to be "explain to me why"? Is there a general rule for that? "Can you explain something to me?" would be the correct way of expressing this. We do not explain you something ever, though we will willingly bring you something. Background: I'm a native English speaker from USA. I always use "explain X to Y.". For example: I explained how to use the toaster to Sara, however I have noticed that some speakers of English will say: a) Explain me it! (I'd say: "Explain it to me!") b) Explain me why you didn't me. (I'd use "explain to me. ") So which speakers use this construction or is it just plain wrong and we shouldn't be using it? Thanks a lot! Roxcyn There is a WHOLE other language out there that passes as English, where you hear all kinds of crap talk like: Explain me it; and Explain me why you didn't me. Word up! I hear ya brotha. Why you wanna do me like that? My Baby Daddy almost home and then we'll see who gonna be the leader here.

It should have stated: "b) Explain me why you didn't give me the present. (I'd use "Explain to me me why you didn't give me the present."). Now, I am just stating questions because these are educated people who have graduated from university) that I hear say these phrases. Does anyone else and should we be saying them? Thank you. There is a world of difference between an educated person, and having a university diploma. I have known more than one person who graduated from a university, yet was an ignoramus. While "explain" is a transitive verb, the object of the act of explaining is the thing made plain or clear, and not the person to whom the explanation is given: The teacher explained the meaning of "mitosis" to the class. The preacher explained a difficult passage in the book of Isaiah to the congregation. The judge explained the law to the jurors. Our guide on the factory tour explained the process of smelting iron. To treat the indirect object (the class, the congregation, the jurors, the people taking the tour) as the direct object, while apparently treating the direct object as the indirect object, is simply wrong. Hello is the preposition to in the following sentence optional or necessary? The following text will explain (to) you how the refrigerator cools food. Thank you. It's mandatory. explain something explain to someone There is no way you can attach an indirect object to the verb "explain" without "to.". Hello everyone, This may be a tough question, but which verb other than "explain" can fit in all the blanks? Will you _____ me the matter? Will you _____ the matter to me? He _____ed to me how to do the work. He _____ed to me that she could not attend the meeting. Please _____ why you are angry. Thanks in advance. The first sentence sounds unnatural. You could put a number of verbs in the gaps. E.g highlight. Last edited: Jun 13, 2008 nzfauna (Original post amended) said: Only the last two sentences work. I would say that all of them work, although the first one is a little awkward - the second is a much more natural version. Also, to the OP: Please try and suggest your own answers to a question for other people to correct or explain, rather than simply asking the question. I last edited: Jun 13, 2008 Only the last two sentences work. You could put a number of verbs in the gaps. E.g highlight. Hi nzfauna, Thanks for your reply. But I'm afraid you don't understand my question. I would like to know which one same verb, not some verbs respectively, can fit in the blan. For example, I don't know whether I am correct or not, but ... Will you whisper to me the matter? Will you whisper the matter to me? He whispered to me how to do the work. He whispered to me that she could not attend the meeting. Please whisper why you are angry. I think I did understand. And I suggested the verb "highlight". I also amended my post. I think I did understand. And I suggested the verb "highlight". I also amended my post. My apologies, nzfauna. I'm the one who didn't understand. I didn't imagine highlight could be in the blank, so I disregarded the part. Sorry. A thesaurus will give you synonyms, but "explain" is the best word to use in all these sentences. The fourth sentence would sound better as 'He explained to me WHY she could not attend the meeting.' Rover Hello everyone, Will you explain to me the matter? Will you explain the matter to me? My question: 1. The first sentence sounds unnatural and the second sound natural. Is this true? 2. Is the first sentence grammatically correct? Thanks in advance. The first one is not correct. The fourth sentence would sound better as 'He explained to me WHY she could not attend the meeting.' That just changes the meaning. Explaining to someone that you can't attend a meeting is not the same as giving them a reason for it. I. Constructions of the "verb + the indirect object + the direct object" are rarely acceptable and only in the most formal style, legalese sometimes. Last edited: Jun 13, 2008 I think the first example is very unlikely to be heard as it stands with such a simple indirect object (matter). If the object was more complex, the construction might be heard (as Setwale Charm says) in formal or old-fashioned speech. Here is an example of what I mean: "Would you explain to me the matter at hand?" This is the sort of phrasing one might come across in 19th c. English, or older, or in the speech of those who still sometimes speak like this. In that case you simply say 'He told/informed me that she could not attend the meeting', as nothing is being explained. Rover Hi, is it correct to say "in order to explain the situation" or "in order to explain the situation to them"? Thanks I agree with mal Hello, everyone We were taught at school that "explained"/meas/his is wrong, and we must put "to" right before the object. I'd like to know how often you omit "to". Is the construction without "to" so commonly used? I never omit "to". Please explain to me why you have He explained to me the difference between kanji and kana. She explained the plot of the play to me. The object of explain is the thing that is to be explained. Explain does not take two objects - direct and indirect - the way some verbs do. For example, give: Give the ball to me. Give me the ball. This does not work with explain. Explain the problem to me. Explain me the problem. Thanks a lot. I have a clearer understanding now. Hi, everyone I've often heard people say "Please explain me the meaning," or something like that. My dictionary says it's not standard but often accepted. What I'd like to know is whether there are other examples of the same kind in which me or us is used where it should not be. Examples: 1) He suggested me that ... 2) He proposed me that ... 3) They announced us that ... 4) She confessed me that ... 5) He proved me that ... 6) She admitted him that ... 7) She complained me that ... 8) They required me to do ... Last edited: Jul 14, 2008 In the examples you quote the problem is not the use of me or us but the failure to use to. You can say "He suggested that ... " or "He suggested to me/us that ... ". hi, do you have to insert "to" in each Ocham's example here? thanks a lot Ocham, either your dictionary is terribly mistaken, or this phrase is a regional thing, because I've never heard "explain me the meaning" being used, let alone used frequently. "Please explain the meaning to me" would be the grammatically correct sentence, but it's still too much of a mouthful to be used frequently. This sounds like the archaic use of "me" in the dative. It still exists in such modern phrases as "give me the pen", but current use seems to be limited to verbs expressing physical actions. I've often heard it used in relation to non-physical verbs by Irish speakers, particularly from more traditional areas. Many many thanks to all of you. I'm not sure if this is directly relevant, but I came across a site that includes a list of ditransitive verbs - verbs such as give, tell, teach, sing that take a direct object and indirect object. Click Here. I haven't checked the list of verbs (disclaimer). I'm curious about Kevin's suggestion that treating verbs (such as explain) as if they were ditransitive is an Irish "thing". That wouldn't have occurred to me, but that means nothing. I must go and have a think. 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