

explain

verb

► Say it: ex • plain

46

Write it: _____

Academic Vocabulary Toolkit

Meaning

to give details or reasons for something so that someone can understand it

Example

My math _____ explained the _____ problem to me.



Forms

Present:
I/You/We/They explain
He/She/It explains
Past:
explained

Family

- **Noun:** explanation
- **Adjective:** explanatory

Word Partners

- _____ how
Our computer science teacher **explained** how computers use binary codes to function.
- _____ why
The research team published a report **explaining** why the bee population is decreasing.
- help _____
Scientists believe that studying dolphins's brains may **help explain** how human intelligence works.

Verbal Practice

Talk about It Read each sentence and think about how you would complete it.

Discuss your idea with your partner using the sentence frame.

Listen carefully to your partner's and classmates' ideas.

Write your favorite idea in the blank.

- 1 Our teacher recently **explained** how to _____.
- 2 I know a lot about _____, so I could **explain** it to a younger student.

Writing Practice

Collaborate Work with your partner to complete the sentence using the correct form of **explain** and appropriate content.

Most teenagers could easily _____ how to _____
if one of their older relatives didn't know how.

Your Turn Work independently to complete the sentence using the correct form of **explain** and appropriate content.

If I had to _____ why I enjoy playing _____, I would say it is
because _____.

Be an Academic Author Work independently to write two sentences. In your first sentence, use **explain** with the modal verb *could*. In your second sentence, use **explain** in the *simple past tense* and include a word partner.

① _____

② _____

grammar tip

Modal verbs are helping verbs that give additional meaning to the main verb. *Could* can be used to express future possibility.

I could explain that to you later.

She could go tomorrow.

Write an Academic Paragraph Complete the paragraph using the correct form of **explain** and original content.

Long ago, ancient cultures developed myths to _____
natural phenomena like the rising and setting of the sun. For example, the Greeks
believed that the sun god Helios rode across the sky in a chariot every day, bringing the
_____ up or down with him. Similarly, ancient Egyptians believed
that the sun god Ra _____ across the sky in a boat during the day.
Another myth about the sun originates from the Navajo people of the southwestern United
States, who _____ that the god Tsohanoai carried the sun across the
sky on his back during the day and hung it up inside his house at night. However, today we
use _____ instead of myths to _____ this
phenomenon. We know that the sun rises and sets as the Earth _____
on its axis.