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1. Why (adverb): For what reason or purpose.2. Why (noun): A reason or explanation for something.3. Why (interjection): Used to express surprise or emphasis.4. Why (conjunction): The cause or reason that explains something.The word "why" serves as a fundamental tool in language for seeking explanations, expressing surprise, or delving into the reasons behind actions or phenomena. This small but powerful word is central to inquiry, understanding, and conversation."Why" Definition: What Does "Why" Mean?The term "why" is versatile, functioning as a question, reason, or expression in different contexts. Lets explore its definitions in depth.Definition of "Why": Reason or PurposeAs an adverb, "why" is used to inquire about the reason or purpose behind something, such as "Why did you do that?"Definition of "Why": A Reason or ExplanationWhen used as a noun, "why" refers to the reason or explanation for a particular action, event, or situation, e.g., "The why behind his decision remains unclear.Definition of "Why": Expression of SurpriseAs an interjection, "why" conveys surprise, disbelief, or emphasis, such as "Why, I never thought you'd ask!"Definition of "Why": Cause or Reason in ContextAs a conjunction, "why" explains the reason something happens, often used in phrases like "The reason why" or "Parts of Speech"The word "why" serves multiple grammatical roles, demonstrating its versatility in the English language. As anadverb, "why" is used to question reasons or purposes, allowing speakers to inquire about the underlying motives behind actions or events. When functioning as anoun, it encapsulates the essence of rationale in a single term. Additionally, "why" acts as aninterjection, emphasizing surprise or disbelief in a conversation, often conveying strong emotional reactions. Furthermore, it serves as aconjunction, introducing the cause or reason for something.How to Pronounce "Why"?Pronunciation of "why" is straightforward, with a single syllable.Begin with a soft "wh" sound, as in "where," followed by a long "i" sound, as in "high." The pronunciation is quick but clear.Phonetic Pronunciation: /wa/Synonyms of "Why": Other Ways to Say "Why"Here are synonyms or alternative expressions for "why," depending on its use:ReasonPurposeCauseExplanationJustificationAntonyms of "Why": Other Ways to Say "Why"Antonyms for "why" are rare but include terms that imply the absence of inquiry or reasoning:AcceptanceIgnoranceUnquestioningExamples of "Why" in a SentenceHere are ten examples that showcase the flexibility of "why" across contexts:1. Why are you late to class again?2. The why behind her actions remains a mystery.3. Why, I didnt expect to see you here!4. He questioned why they needed to leave so early.5. The report doesnt explain the why of the situation.6. Why do birds migrate in the winter?7. Why not take a break and relax for a while?8. She was curious why the project failed to meet its goals.9. Why, thats the best idea Ive heard all day!10. The teacher asked them to think about the why behind their conclusions.Frequency of UseThe word "why" is one of the most commonly used words in English, essential in questioning, reasoning, and exploring concepts. Its prevalence spans everyday conversation, academic settings, and formal inquiries, making it a cornerstone of communication.Variants of "Why"Though "why" itself remains largely unchanged, some related expressions or forms include:Whys: The plural form referring to multiple reasons or explanations.Why not: An expression often used to suggest or propose something.Related Terms to "Why"Several related terms help frame questions or reasons, complementing the use of "why":HowWhatReasonBecauseExplanationEtymology: History and Origins of "Why"The word "why" originates from Old English hw or hwy, meaning "for what reason." It shares roots with other interrogative words like "who" and "how," stemming from the Proto-Germanic and Proto-Indo-European languages. Its usage has remained consistent over centuries, reflecting humanity's innate desire to seek explanations.Derivatives and Compounds of "Why"Here are derivatives and compounds of "why" that extend its utility:Whys: Plural form for multiple reasons or causes.Why-ever: An emphatic variation of "why."Common Misspellings of "Why"Misspellings of "why" are rare due to its simplicity but can include: 10 Idioms Similar to "Why"Idioms and expressions that carry similar themes of inquiry or reasoning include:1. Whats the big idea?2. For what purpose?3. Whats the deal?4. What gives?5. To what end?6. Whats up with that?7. Whats the story?8. Why the long face?9. Why in the world?10. Whats it all about? From Middle English, from Old English hw, hw (why), instrumental case of hwt (what), literally by what, for what), from Proto-Germanic \*hw (by what, how), from Proto-Indo-European \*kew, locative of \*ks (who"). Cognate with Middle High German wiu (how, why"), Danish and Swedish hvi (why"), Faroese and Icelandic hv (why"). Latin cui (to whom", dative case of qu (who, how, why"). Ancient Greek (pei, where"). Compare Old English (because, since, on, and where), from Proto-Germanic \*hw (by what, how), from Proto-Indo-European \*kew, locative of \*ks (who"). 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; see 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 I have 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, pronfor 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)interjan 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 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 he go 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.'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.noun2. 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. : warumwiesoweshalbweswegenegal hverjuaf hverju, hvers vegnastahvers vegna, af hverjunperchdammeneitl perchper quale ragioneperchpor quepor que motivoporquPorqu? miinvi-in sebebi/nedeneden [wa]B. EXCL. tomar, 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 fcil.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 si 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 propuestaTranslate that's why using por eso: That's why they wouldn't pay Por eso no queran pagarLike 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?; thats why darum, deshalb, deswegen; thats exactly why genau deshalb or deswegen interj why, of course, thats right! ja doch or aber sicher, das stimmt so!; are you sure? why yes (of course)! I think so) sind Sie sicher? aber ja doch; why thats 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]I. 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 motivihe why 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. hoekom porqu pro warum hvorfor por qu miksi miksi pourquoi, zato mirt? mengapa warum hvorforfor 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 inessing, 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?Tikhon 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). WhyadverbEtymology: hwi, forhwi , Saxon.1. For what reason? Interrogatively.They both deal justly with you; why? not from any regard they have for justice, but because their fortune depends on their credit,Jonathan Swift.2. For which reason. Relatively.Mortar will not have attained its utmost compactness till fourscore years after it has been employed; and this is one reason why, in demolishing ancient fabricks, it is more easy to break the stone than the mortar.Boyle.No ground of enmityWhy he should mean me ill,John Milton.Such, whose sole bliss is eating; who can giveBut that one brutal reason, why they live.Dryden.3. For what reason. Relatively.Shall I tell you why: Ay, sir, and wherefore; for they say,Every why hath a wherefore.William Shakespeare.I was dispatched for their defence and guard:And listen why, for I will tell you now,John Milton.We examine the why, the what and the how of things.Roger L'Estrange.Turn the discourse; I have a reason whyI would not have you speak so tenderly.Dryden.4. It is sometimes used emphatically.Ninus tomb, man; why, you must not speak that yet: that you answer to Pyram.William Shakespeare.You have not been a-bed then?Why, no; the day had broke before we parted.William Shakespeare.Whence is this? why: from that essential suitableness which obedience has to the relation which is between a rational creature and his Creator.Robert South, Sermons.

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