I'm not a robot

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. As 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?) 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. _____ If you are in a position to gently correct this language the Grammar angels will bless you. Oops I do apologize for the last sentence. It was a typo. 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 being 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 optinoal 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 ____ to 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 ammended my post. I think I did understand. And I suggested the verb "highlight". I also ammended my post. My apologies, nzfauna. I'm the one who didn't understand. I didn't imagine hightlight 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 them the situation" or "in order to explain the situation to them"? Thanks I agree with mal Hello, everyone We were taught at school that "explain(ed) me/us/him" 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 . . ." Edit: You could also say: "He told me that . . ." 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. 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. That's a novel way to spell "drink", panj. Hi, Can you please help me out on this question: Which sentence is the correct one: 1. "He explained me something" 2. "He explained to me something" For me the first one sounds better. Regards, jimmyy I wouldn't use either of these, I suggest a third option; "He explained something to me". Page 2 I would use ...he explained something to me He explained something to me. liliput and Gypsyjade are right, it should be: He explained something to me. Three posts at the same time! He explained to me something sounds odd but if you actually replace the something, it is OK. Eg. He explained to me the difference between good and bad. Three posts at the same time! He explained to me something sounds odd but if you actually replace the something, it is OK. Eg. He explained to me the difference between good and bad. Actually, in this case, I would still say: He explained the difference between good and evil to me. So would I, but the sentence still stands valid, meaningful and sufficiently idiomatic. Since the original question was regarding the usage of to, I found it better to keep the rest of the sentence intact. Hi, Can you please help me out on this question: Which sentence is the correct one: 1. "He explained me something" 2. "He explained to me something" For me the first one sounds better. The only reason that the first one sounds better to you, Jimmy, is because you've obviously heard it said by non-native-speakers or uneducated people who don't know any better or people who choose to use bad grammar (and, yes, there are many of those). It is absolutely incorrect. Your second sentence is also awkward (as indicated by Nena and Illuminatus). "He explained to me" would usually be followed by "that" ie: "He explained to me that I'm not old enough to drive yet" Idiomatically, your second sentence would be said as: "He explained something to me" 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 It's "just plain wrong." (I had no idea people speak like that!) I think non-native speakers use the constructions pointed out by roxcyn. I've heard Spanish speakers (who are learning English) use it a lot, basically because they directly translate the phrase (in the same order) from Spanish (i.e. ¡Explícamelo!). The order, however, must be changed when translated to English. Actually, your replies were very helpful. However, does the structure explain me convey a specific meaning in some contexts? What made me read this thread was that I came across the same structure in Obama's book A Promised Land Here is the text (I am sorry because it is a little bit long, but I couldn't just extract the explain me sentence only. It was the America of Lincoln at Gettysburg, and Jane Addams toiling in a Chicago settlement home, and weary GIs at Normandy, and Dr. King on the National Mall summoning courage in others and in himself. It was the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, crafted by flawed but brilliant thinkers who reasoned their way to a system at once sturdy and capable of change. An America that could explain me. “Dream on, Barack” is how those arguments with my college friends would usually end, as some smug bastard dropped a newspaper in front of me, its headlines trumpeting the U.S. invasion of Grenada or cuts in the school lunch program or some other disheartening news. “Sorry, but that’s your America.” Your sentence uses the transitive version of "explain, e.g." Can you explain calculus?I will explain global warming to you.I can explain my absence.This usage is not the subject of the original post. Your sentence means, more or less, "explain why I am the way I am." This usage is not the subject of the original post. Yes, you are right. I read the post and I knew it was about the structure of explain+to I do know that my question is not relevant the this post discussion. However, I just wanted to know what does it mean when we use the structure explain me apart from the structure of explain to Your sentence means, more or less, "explain why I am the way I am." Does it mean because of America "I am the way I am" as you have already suggested? or let me say it in other words, does it mean "America made me what I am"? Yes, you are right. I read the post and I knew it was about the structure of explain+to I do know that my question is not relevant the this post discussion. However, I just wanted to know what does it mean when we use the structure explain me apart from the structure of explain to Does it mean because of America "I am the way I am" as you have already suggested? or let me say it in other words, does it mean "America made me what I am"? No. Explain me is an odd sentence because the object after "explain" is what you explain. Therefore, Explain me means something along the lines of give an explanation of me. As you may guess, we can give a description of someone, but we can't give an explanation of someone, that's why explain me doesn't make much sense, but describe me does make sense We do it all the time, or at least attempt to, in biographies, tell-alls (such as the following image) Sorry, I should have read the whole thread before taking part in it. I assumed Mrxkms was asking about the differences between "explain me" and "explain to me", rather than grasp the meaning of "explain me" in the sentence about Obama. Sorry for the confusion! Thank you elprofe, but I really got lost Explain me is an odd sentence because the object after "explain" is what you explain. I really understand this, and I never misused the verb explain. I always say for example explain to me how... or explain this to me. When I read An America that could explain me in Obama's book, I stopped and felt like "how can America explain him?!" I read the sentence many times thoroughly to understand what he wants to say in this sentence. To some extent, sdgraham made it clear to me when he said that this "sentence means, more or less, "explain why I am the way I am." " However, sdgraham's last reply complicated the things to me. I couldn't understand how to relate the image to my question concerning Obama's sentence An America that could explain me Actually, I am asking what would it mean when some native speaker say "explain me" just as Obama said in his sentence An America that could explain me Actually, I am asking what would it mean when some native speaker says "explain me" just as Obama said in his sentence An America that could explain me One more try: What America has done could explain me, i.e. my thoughts and actions. One more try: What America has done could explain me, i.e. my thoughts and actions. Sorry sdgraham I still cant understand "explain me" Did you mean "What America has done could explain or interpret my thoughts and actions."? See No. 2 below: WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2021 ex•plain /ɪkˈsplem/ 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. I still can't understand "explain me" Try A: "What happened here!" B(i): "Wait! I can explain." = I can give an explanation B(ii): "Wait! I can explain it." = I can give an explanation of it (i.e. "what has happened here".) I explain it and "it" is explained. B(iii): "Wait! I can explain it to you." = I can give an explanation of it for your benefit. Now change A's exclamation: A: "You are the weirdest person in the world! I don't understand anything that you do! I think you are mad!" B(iv): "Wait! I can explain." = I can give an explanation B(v): "Wait! I can explain me." = I can give an explanation of me (i.e. "my character and my characteristics".) I explain it and "me" is explained. B(vi): "Wait! I can explain me to you." = I can give an explanation of my character and my characteristics for your benefit. Me can have the meaning of "my character and my characteristics" Thank you very much indeed You really were of great help to me. You both gave a detailed explanation of explain me, and now it is crystal clear. I am sorry for asking alot of questions. I just want to be sure that I understood the sentence the way it was meant to be. So, based on your explanation, if I applied this to Obama's sentence (An America that could explain me), would it mean that America could explain my character and characteristics? I cant understand it in another way since the subject of the sentence is America not a person. Would it sound normal to say that America could explain my character. Or America could "explain why I am the way I am" as sdgraham suggested earlier? One more thing, does explain in Obama's sentence mean to clarify and interpret? I am afraid that I am reading the word in a way different from what it really means in this text. Wait! I can explain me to you." = I can give an explanation of my character and my characteristics for your benefit. Great! Very clear. Your examples are very clear and hit the point of explain me, but when I apply this to my sentence , I cant be sure whether my reading is correct or not. The problem is not in understanding explain me but in how it is functioning in my sentence. What confuses me is that how would America explain his behaviour, character, what he is, or the way he is. We may say for example -America gave me power, money, fame etc. But when it comes to America explains me, it sounds strange to me though it is not to you as native speakers. Please, do me a favour and I would be grateful. Would you please convey to me the writer's implied message in An America that could explain me using words other than "explain me". Or at least let me know based on your explanations and examples if my readings are correct or not: 1- What America has done could explain or interpret my thoughts and actions. 2- Because of America "I am the way I am" Please forgive me for too much asking and bear in mind that I am not a native speaker, so such expressions may lead me to wrong understanding if they are not understood well. But when it comes to America explains me, it sounds strange to me though it is not to you as native speakers. Without context, it sounds very strange to a native speaker, too. sdgraham @ #68 give an example in context of "explain me". Normally, we would say "America (= Being brought up in America/America's recent history) explains why I am like this". Do not worry about this. It is highly unlikely that you will see or hear it, and if you do, you should now understand its meaning. We do not usually use a person as the object of "explain." We explain something {to someone}. We might try to explain someone's behaviour/character, etc., but this is "something", not someone. I explained the plan to him and he understood the plan. I explained him to the plan and the plan understood him. This is obviously nonsense. Thank you PaulQ Thank you sdgraham Normally, we would say "America (= Being brought up in America/America's recent history) explains why I am like this". Now, I can say that I understand what "explain me" means in this sentence. Without context, it sounds very strange to a native speaker, too. By the way, I posted the text in my first reply in this thread. Here it is It was the America of Lincoln at Gettysburg, and Jane Addams toiling in a Chicago settlement home, and weary GIs at Normandy, and Dr. King on the National Mall summoning courage in others and in himself. It was the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, crafted by flawed but brilliant thinkers who reasoned their way to a system at once sturdy and capable of change. An America that could explain me. “Dream on, Barack” is how those arguments with my college friends would usually end, as some smug bastard dropped a newspaper in front of me, its headlines trumpeting the U.S. invasion of Grenada or cuts in the school lunch program or some other disheartening news. “Sorry, but that’s your America.” Thank you very much indeed 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. As 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 In the imperative mood, we could use "explain it me" but I don't hear that usage much these days. Otherwise, I broadly agree with the other responses 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 me 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 Owlman'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. What is the difference ? Thanks. What is the difference ? Thanks. In standard British English we include the preposition. For example, I'll explain to her how to book a seat. I've often heard Americans use explain without the preposition. What is the difference ? Thanks. For me: explain to = explain something to someone and: explain her actions/behaviour = "explain someone's actions/behaviour to somebody" ..... Explain her has no meaning. Students often confuse explain her/him with describe her/him. Umm, technically... "to her/him" is a dative usage, in which they are the recipient of a particular, indirect, thing. "her/him" is the accusative. (Whereas, she/he is the nominative, the subject." "I sent a letter to him." "I sent him a letter." In some cases, however, the verb itself demands a dative construction for its object. It's all from Latin. Thus, "I need to explain that to him." "I must explain how to do that." "I must teach him how to do that." "I must explain to her how to find the car." Etc... ~Chad Umm, technically... "to her/him" is a dative usage, in which they are the recipient of a particular, indirect, thing. "her/him" is the accusative. (Whereas, she/he is the nominative, the subject." "I sent a letter to him." "I sent him a letter." In some cases, however, the verb itself demands a dative construction for its object. It's all from Latin. Thus, "I need to explain that to him." "I must explain how to do that." "I must teach him how to do that." "I must explain to her how to find the car." Etc... ~Chad I still don't get it . You gave examples such as "sent" or "teach" it those cases I know the usage but in " the exaplain case I am confused. e.g.1. can you explain to her the reason why I used "to" in this example? reason is the direct object meaning: can you explain the reason for her e.g.2. can you explain her? What is she doing here? her is the direct object meaning: can you explain (to me) what is she doing here "Explain her" (with the intended meaning "explain to her") is incorrect, whether in British or American English. I've often seen non-natives say/write it, but never a native. As Alahay said, "explain her" would mean "interpret her, tell me something about her," etc. 百度知道>提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了>_提示信息 知道宝贝找不到问题了>_

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