### explanation

#### [,eksplə'neı∫(ə)n] n

## 1. 1) объяснение; пояснение; разъяснение

the explanation of difficulties - разъяснение трудностей

after repeated explanations - после неоднократных объяснений

by way of explanation - в пояснение, для ясности

he said a few words by way of explanation - он коротко пояснил свою мысль

it needs no explanation that ... - нет нужды пояснять, что ...

## 2) объяснение, разговор, выяснение отношений

they had an explanation - они объяснились между собой, между ними произошло объяснение

 объяснение, оправдание legal explanation - юридическое обоснование satisfactory explanation - удовлетворительное объяснение in explanation of his conduct - в оправдание своего поведения an explanation of their delay was demanded - от них потребовали объяснения причин задержки
толкование, истолкование

differing explanations - разные толкования the explanation proved to be erroneous - толкование оказалось ошибочным

## explanation

## explanation [explanation explanations] BrE [,eksplə'neɪ[n] NAme

[,eksplə'neɪ[n] noun

- **1.** countable, uncountable a statement, fact, or situation that tells you why sth happened; a reason given for sth
  - The most likely explanation is that his plane was delayed.
- to offer/provide an explanation
- ~ (for sth) I can't think of any possible explanation for his absence.
- ~ (for doing sth) She didn't give an adequate explanation for being late.
- $\cdot$  ~ (of sth) The book opens with an explanation of why some drugs are banned.
- ~ (as to why...) an explanation as to why he had left early
- She left the room abruptly without explanation .
- 'I had to see you,' he said, by way of explanation.
- 2. countable a statement or piece of writing that tells you how sth works or makes sth easier to understand
- For a full explanation of how the machine works, turn to page 5.
- The teacher gave the children a detailed explanation of the story.

## Word Origin:

late Middle English: from Latin explanatio(n-), from the verb explanare, based on planus 'plain'.

## Thesaurus:

## explanation noun C, U

• What explanation can you give for your appalling behaviour?

**reason** •• **excuse** •• **motive** •• **grounds** •• **justification** •• **cause** •• **pretext** • |BrE defence • |AmE defense • |law plea • a/an explanation/reason/excuse/motive/grounds/justification/cause/pretext/defence for sth the **obvious** explanation/reason/excuse/motive/grounds/justification/cause/pretext/defence

have a/an explanation/reason/excuse/motive/grounds/justification/cause/pretext/defence

## Synonyms:

## reason

 $explanation {\ \bullet \ } grounds {\ \bullet \ } basis {\ \bullet \ } excuse {\ \bullet \ } motive {\ \bullet \ } justification {\ \bullet \ } pretext$ 

These are all words for a cause or an explanation for sth that has happened or that sb has done.

**reason** • a cause or an explanation for sth that has happened or that sb has done; a fact that makes it right or fair to do sth: • He said no but he didn't give a reason.

**explanation** • a statement, fact or situation that tells you why sth has happened; a reason given for sth: • The most likely explanation is that his plane was delayed.  $\diamondsuit$  = She left the room abruptly without explanation.

grounds • (rather formal) a good or true reason for saying, doing or believing sth: • You have no grounds for complaint.

basis • (rather formal) the reason why people take a particular action: • On what basis will this decision be made?

**excuse** • a reason, either true or invented, that you give to explain or defend your behaviour, a good reason that you give for doing sth that you want to do for other reasons: = Late again! What's your excuse this time?  $\diamond$  = It gave me an excuse to take the car. **motive** • a reason that explains sb's behaviour = There seemed to be no motive for the murder.

justification • (rather formal) a good reason why sth exists or is done: • I can see no possible justification for any further tax increases.

## grounds or justification?

**Justification** is used to talk about finding or understanding reasons for actions, or trying to explain why it is a good idea to do sth. It is often used with words like little, no, some, every, without, and not any. **Grounds** is used more for talking about reasons that already exist, or that have already been decided, for example by law: moral/economic grounds.

**pretext** • (rather formal) a false reason that you give for doing sth, usually sth bad, in order to hide the real reason: • He left the party early on the pretext of having to work.

(a/an) reason/explanation/grounds/basis/excuse/motive/justification/pretext  ${\bf for}$  sth the reason/motive  ${\bf behind}$  sth

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

Apresyan (En-Ru)

#### on the grounds/basis/pretext of/that...

#### (a) good/valid reason/explanation/grounds/excuse/motive/justification

#### Example Bank:

- 'I've worked with them before, you see,' he added, in explanation.
- A more credible explanation now occurred to her.
- An explanation is clearly called for.
- Another quite plausible explanation presented itself.
- · He entered into a technical explanation about software and programming.
- He only offered a partial explanation for his lateness.
- He provided no explanation as to why he was late.
- Her success has been so remarkable as to defy explanation.
- I can think of one possible explanation for her behaviour.
- I had no explanation for her strange behaviour.
- I suppose you deserve an explanation.
- I think you owe me an explanation.
- It's the only explanation that makes any kind of sense.
- No further explanation is necessary.
- No single clear explanation emerged from the experiments.
- Several possible explanations exist.
- She launched into a detailed explanation of every aspect of her work.
- She left suddenly and without explanation.
- She wrote to the company demanding an explanation.
- The causal explanation must be that old age causes poverty, not that poverty causes people to be old.
- The men left quickly with no attempt at explanation.
- The simplest explanation for his achievements lies in his greater ability and superiority over his contemporaries at college.
- There is no generally accepted explanation of this practice.
- There is probably some perfectly logical explanation for their absence.
- There was no apparent explanation for the attack.
- There's sure to be a perfectly innocent explanation for all this- though I admit it looks bizarre.
- We are still waiting for a full explanation from the teacher concerned.
- · one explanation advanced by Marxist historians
- post hoc explanations of historical changes that would have made no sense to anyone living at the time
- the common explanations for cancer
- · He gave a somewhat confused explanation as to why he had left early.
- · I can't think of any possible explanation for his absence.
- She didn't give an adequate explanation for being late.
- She left the room abruptly without explanation.

#### explanation

ex pla na tion S3 W2 / eksplə'ner fən/ BrE AmE noun

[Word Family: adjective: †unexplained, †explanatory, †explicable  $\neq$  †inexplicable; noun: explaining, †explanation; verb †explain; adverb †inexplicably]

1. [uncountable and countable] the reasons you give for why something happened or why you did something explanation of/for

Can you think of any explanation for this failure?

### without explanation

The concert was cancelled without explanation.

- 2. [countable] a statement or piece of writing intended to describe how something works or make something easier to understand provide/give an explanation
- The ability to give clear explanation

The ability to give clear explanations is the most important quality of the ideal teacher.

#### explanation of

I'll try and give you a quick explanation of how the machine works.

## COLLOCATIONS

#### verbs

- have an explanation Does the hospital have any explanation for why he died?
- give an explanation The police gave no explanation for their actions.
- provide/offer an explanation This theory may provide an explanation for the origins of the universe.

• ask for/demand an explanation When I asked for an explanation, the people at the office said they didn't know. | Furious parents are demanding an explanation from the school.

- wait for an explanation (=expect an explanation) She continued to stare at him in silence, waiting for an explanation.
- find/think of/come up with an explanation Scientists have been unable to find an explanation for this phenomenon.
- owe (somebody) an explanation I think you owe me some kind of explanation.
- accept an explanation (=believe that it is true or correct) The court accepted her explanation.
- need/require an explanation We think the minister's decision requires an explanation.

#### adjectives

• a possible explanation Can anyone think of a possible explanation for why this is happening?

• the most likely/probable explanation (=one that is probably true) The most likely explanation is that John missed the bus. |

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

The most probable explanation is that the water was contaminated.

• an obvious explanation (=one that is easy to see or notice) There is no obvious explanation for his strange behaviour.

• a reasonable /plausible explanation (=one that is easy to believe) Pilot error is the most plausible explanation for the crash.

• a satisfactory/adequate explanation (=one that explains something completely) A bank must offer an adequate explanation of all its charges.

• a convincing/credible explanation (=one that you can believe is true) The author fails to provide a convincing explanation for the main character's motives.

• a logical/rational explanation (=one that is based on facts) Physics finally gave us a rational explanation for the atom's strange behaviour.

further explanation (=additional reasons) He gave no further explanation for leaving, and she did not ask for any.
phrases

• there is no apparent explanation (=used when there is no explanation that you can think of) There was no apparent explanation for the attack.

# THESAURUS

explanation

• reason why something happens, or why someone does something: What was the reason for the delay? | I don't know the reason why he left his last job.

• explanation a set of reasons that helps you to understand why something happens, especially when it seems difficult to understand: There are various possible explanations for climate change. | Is there any explanation for his behavior?

• motive a reason that makes someone decide to do something – often used about crimes: Police say that there is no obvious motive for the attack.

• justification a good reason for doing something that seems wrong: There is never any justification for torture or abuse. | They try to use the situation in the Middle East as a justification for killing innocent civilians. | There's no justification for this type of behaviour.

• grounds a reason that makes it right or fair to do something, especially according to legal, official, or moral rules: The court will decide if she has grounds for divorce. | They claim the war is justified on moral grounds (=because of moral reasons).

• basis the main ideas or reasons on which something is based: The doctor makes his decisions purely on the basis of clinical observation. | What do you think is the basis for this advice?

• rationale /,ræ∫ə'nɑ□\$ -'næl/ formal a set of reasons that are used to explain why someone does something in a particular way: the rationale behind the government's economic reforms | This chapter explains the nature of yearly plans, and provides a rationale for their use.

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