- Why were you late?
- Tell me why you did it.
- 'I would like you to go.' ' Why me?'
- (informal) Why oh why do people keep leaving the door open?
- 2. used in questions to suggest that it is not necessary to do sth
- · Why get upset just because you got one bad grade?
- · Why bother to write? We'll see him tomorrow.
- 3. used to give or talk about a reason
 - That's why I left so early.
 - I know you did it— I just want to know why.
 - The reason why the injection needs repeating every year is that the virus changes.

Word Origin:

Old English hwī, hwy 'by what cause', instrumental case of hwæt 'what', of Germanic origin. Idioms: \dagger \text{hwhy ever= \dagger} \text{hwhy not? = \dagger \dagger whys and wherefores}

exclamation (old-fashioned or NAmE) used to express surprise, lack of patience, etc.

- Why Jane, it's you!
- Why, it's easy— a child could do it!

Word Origin:

Old English hwī, hwy□ 'by what cause', instrumental case of hwæt 'what', of Germanic origin.

noun

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why
                                                                                                  Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)
I. why 1 S1 W1 /waɪ/ BrE * AmE *
  1. used to ask or talk about the reason for something:
         Why are you crying?
         Why do we have to take all these tests?
        'She wants to meet you.' 'Why?'
         'I won't be able to come into work tomorrow.' 'Why not?'
        I have no idea why the television isn't working.
         Simon loves you – that's why he wants to be with you.
         He's angry with me and I don't know why.
        There's no reason why we shouldn't be friends.
    why on earth/why everetc (=used for emphasis when you are surprised, angry etc)
         Why on earth didn't you ask me to help?
         'I don't want us to be seen together.' 'Why ever not?'
  2. used to introduce a question that shows you do not think it is necessary to do something:
         Why worry? You can't do anything about it.
         Why waste time going to the bank when you can do it all over the Internet?
  SPOKEN PHRASES
  3. why not? used to say that you agree with a suggestion:
         'We could invite John and Barbara.' 'Yes, why not?'
  4. why doesn't somebody do something?
    a) (also why not do something?) used to make a suggestion:
         Why don't you bring over a video for us to watch?
         Why not relax and enjoy the atmosphere?
    b) used to say angrily that someone should do something:
         Why don't you mind your own business?
  5. why somebody? used to ask why a particular person has been chosen or is suffering:
         Why me? Why can't someone else drive you?
  6. why oh why ...? used to show that you are very sorry or angry about something:
         Why oh why did I say those horrible things?
II. why<sup>2</sup> BrE
                 AmE <sup>*</sup>
                          interiection old-fashioned
  used when you are surprised or have suddenly realized something:
         Why, look who's here!
         And I thought to myself, why, I can do that.
III. why<sup>3</sup> BrE *
                 AmE
                           noun
  the whys and (the) wherefores the reasons or explanations for something:
         The whys and the wherefores of these procedures need to be explained.
                                                                                                                 Freakuency Pack
why
  <sub>12500</sub>174<sup>MCW</sup>
  15000 170 COCA
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RANGE: 1k WHY 246931

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

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