

explanation

1 Verb + explanation

Use the correct form of these verbs:

defy	demand	give
hear	owe	think of

1. I heard you coming in at five o'clock this morning. You said you would be home by midnight. I'm waiting to your explanation.
2. The instructor us a very clear explanation of how the machine worked. It was very easy to follow.
3. This is the second time you've failed to attend the meeting. I think you us all an explanation.
4. No wonder you're angry! If Gwen was paid to produce the report by last Friday, I think you can an explanation from her as to why nothing has appeared.
5. Nobody can understand why the Prime Minister has given the job to one of his best friends. It's a strange decision that explanation.
6. I can't an explanation for Pete's bad behaviour. He's usually so well-behaved.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

no apparent	convincing
a very detailed	an immediate
the most likely	logical
any other possible	

1. I'm sorry I'm late. The manager insisted on going into explanation of every aspect of the job and I just couldn't get away.
2. explanation for Steve's absence is that his plane has been delayed.
> Yes, I can't think of explanation.
3. When I caught my oldest son trying on my best dress, I demanded explanation! He said he was going to a fancy-dress party!
4. There seems to be explanation for the attack. It's beginning to look like an act of mindless violence.
5. That's not a very explanation. I'll believe you, but thousands wouldn't!
6. Our dog has been acting strangely lately, but there's probably some perfectly explanation for its odd behaviour.

3 Noun + of + explanation

Use these words to complete the sentences:

some sort of by way of a word of

1. His first wife just left without explanation. One day she was there; the next she had gone!
2. I told the policeman - explanation - that I hadn't seen the speed limit sign. He just laughed and booked me!
3. There must be explanation for John's sudden resignation. It's just come out of the blue!

4 More common expressions

Match the two halves of these sentences:

1. Can you just give us a quick explanation of
 2. There are lots of possible explanations
 3. The official explanation for the crash blames
 4. The only explanation I can think of is
 5. The generally accepted explanation of the disaster
- a. that he's lost his memory.
b. is human error.
c. how the system works?
d. the driver of the London-bound train.
e. why girls do better at school than boys.



"There's probably some perfectly logical explanation!"

Notes

1. Note the different verbs:
He didn't offer any explanation for his late arrival.
The director went into a long explanation.
Nobody could come up with an explanation.
2. Note this expression:
He gave no explanation as to why he wasn't there.
3. If an explanation is 'far-fetched' or 'not very plausible', it is difficult to believe.