TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 200

Explain It to Me or Explain Me? | Fix It in Five

English learning resource · DE

Line-by-line · English + German

43 lines

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

Julia, I do not understand this instruction.

Julia, ich verstehe diese Anweisung nicht.

Explain the rule to me, and I will help.

Erklär mir die Regel, dann helfe ich dir.

Explain me the rule?

Erklär mich die Regel?

In standard English, we normally say explain the rule to me.

Im Standardenglisch sagt man normalerweise explain the rule to me.

Welcome to Fix It in Five from Your English Toolbox.

Willkommen bei Fix It in Five von Your English Toolbox.

Today, let us fix the pattern after the verb explain.

Heute korrigieren wir das Satzmuster nach dem Verb explain.

The simple structure is explain something to someone.

Das einfache Muster lautet explain something to someone.

First comes the thing you explain.

Zuerst kommt die Sache, die du erklärst.

Then say to, followed by the person.

Danach folgt to und dann die Person.

For example, explain the problem to your manager.

Zum Beispiel: explain the problem to your manager.

Or explain the new app to me.

Oder: explain the new app to me.

We cannot usually put the person directly after explain.

Normalerweise stellen wir die Person nicht direkt hinter explain.

So “explain me the problem” is not the standard pattern.

Daher ist „explain me the problem“ nicht das Standardmuster.

Compare that with give.

Vergleiche das mit give.

You can say, give me the form, or give the form to me.

Du kannst give me the form oder give the form to me sagen.

But explain behaves differently.

Aber explain funktioniert anders.

Say, explain the answer to me.

Sag explain the answer to me.

We can also move the thing into a that-clause.

Wir können die Information auch in einen that-Satz setzen.

Please explain to me why the train is late.

Bitte explain to me why the train is late.

Notice that to me comes before the long question.

Achte darauf, dass to me vor der längeren Frage steht.

Another natural sentence is, she explained to us how the system works.

Ein weiterer natürlicher Satz lautet she explained to us how the system works.

Explain can also appear without naming the person.

Du kannst explain auch verwenden, ohne die Person zu nennen.

Could you explain the schedule?

Could you explain the schedule?

That sentence is complete because the person is understood.

Der Satz ist vollständig, weil klar ist, wer gemeint ist.

You can also use this pattern in a question.

Du kannst dieses Muster auch in einer Frage verwenden.

Could you explain the schedule to the new team?

Could you explain the schedule to the new team?

And in the past tense, she explained the delay to her customers.

Und in der Vergangenheit: she explained the delay to her customers.

If the information is a question, put to me before the question clause.

Wenn die Information eine Frage ist, setze to me vor den Fragesatz.

Please explain to me what happened.

Please explain to me what happened.

Do not confuse explain with tell.

Verwechsle explain nicht mit tell.

You can tell me the answer, but explain the answer to me.

Du kannst tell me the answer sagen, aber explain the answer to me.

The verb tell commonly allows the person directly after it.

Bei tell kann die Person oft direkt danach stehen.

Explain normally needs to before the person.

Bei explain braucht man normalerweise to vor der Person.

Let us correct three sentences.

Korrigieren wir drei Sätze.

“Explain me the instructions.”

„Explain me the instructions.“

“Explain the instructions to me.”

„Explain the instructions to me.“

“Can you explain us the difference?”

„Can you explain us the difference?“

“Can you explain the difference to us?”

„Can you explain the difference to us?“

And “explain to me why it changed” is also natural.

Auch „explain to me why it changed“ ist natürlich.

The pattern is: explain something to someone.

Das Muster lautet: explain something to someone.

Find more examples and the transcript on the episode page.

Weitere Beispiele und das Transkript findest du auf der Episodenseite.

The link is in the description.

Der Link steht in der Beschreibung.

Keep learning one clear pattern at a time.

Lerne weiterhin ein klares Muster nach dem anderen.