TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 200

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

English learning resource · ES

Line-by-line · English + Spanish

43 lines

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

Julia, I do not understand this instruction.

Julia, no entiendo esta instrucción.

Explain the rule to me, and I will help.

Explícame la regla y te ayudaré.

Explain me the rule?

¿Explícame la regla?

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

En inglés estándar, normalmente decimos explain the rule to me.

Welcome to Fix It in Five from Your English Toolbox.

Bienvenidos a Fix It in Five, de Your English Toolbox.

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

Hoy vamos a corregir la estructura que sigue al verbo explain.

The simple structure is explain something to someone.

La estructura sencilla es explain something to someone.

First comes the thing you explain.

Primero va la cosa que explicas.

Then say to, followed by the person.

Después di to y luego la persona.

For example, explain the problem to your manager.

Por ejemplo, explain the problem to your manager.

Or explain the new app to me.

O explain the new app to me.

We cannot usually put the person directly after explain.

Normalmente no ponemos a la persona directamente después de explain.

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

Así que “explain me the problem” no es la estructura estándar.

Compare that with give.

Compáralo con give.

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

Puedes decir give me the form o give the form to me.

But explain behaves differently.

Pero explain se comporta de otra manera.

Say, explain the answer to me.

Di explain the answer to me.

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

También podemos poner la información en una oración con that.

Please explain to me why the train is late.

Please explain to me why the train is late.

Notice that to me comes before the long question.

Fíjate en que to me va antes de la pregunta larga.

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

Otra frase natural es she explained to us how the system works.

Explain can also appear without naming the person.

También puedes usar explain sin nombrar a la persona.

Could you explain the schedule?

Could you explain the schedule?

That sentence is complete because the person is understood.

La frase está completa porque se sobreentiende quién la escucha.

You can also use this pattern in a question.

También puedes usar esta estructura en una pregunta.

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.

Y en pasado: she explained the delay to her customers.

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

Si la información es una pregunta, pon to me antes de la oración interrogativa.

Please explain to me what happened.

Please explain to me what happened.

Do not confuse explain with tell.

No confundas explain con tell.

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

Puedes decir tell me the answer, pero explain the answer to me.

The verb tell commonly allows the person directly after it.

Tell suele permitir que la persona vaya directamente después.

Explain normally needs to before the person.

Explain normalmente necesita to antes de la persona.

Let us correct three sentences.

Corrijamos tres frases.

“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.

Y “explain to me why it changed” también es natural.

The pattern is: explain something to someone.

La estructura es: explain something to someone.

Find more examples and the transcript on the episode page.

Encuentra más ejemplos y la transcripción en la página del episodio.

The link is in the description.

El enlace está en la descripción.

Keep learning one clear pattern at a time.

Sigue aprendiendo una estructura clara cada vez.