TRANSCRIPT · EPISODE 200

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

English learning resource · FR

Line-by-line · English + French

43 lines

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

Julia, I do not understand this instruction.

Julia, je ne comprends pas cette consigne.

Explain the rule to me, and I will help.

Explique-moi la règle et je t’aiderai.

Explain me the rule?

« Explique-moi la règle » ?

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

En anglais standard, on dit généralement explain the rule to me.

Welcome to Fix It in Five from Your English Toolbox.

Bienvenue dans Fix It in Five, de Your English Toolbox.

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

Aujourd’hui, nous corrigeons la structure qui suit le verbe explain.

The simple structure is explain something to someone.

La structure simple est explain something to someone.

First comes the thing you explain.

On commence par ce que tu expliques.

Then say to, followed by the person.

Ensuite, ajoute to, suivi de la personne.

For example, explain the problem to your manager.

Par exemple : explain the problem to your manager.

Or explain the new app to me.

Ou : explain the new app to me.

We cannot usually put the person directly after explain.

En général, on ne place pas directement la personne après explain.

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

Donc, « explain me the problem » n’est pas la structure standard.

Compare that with give.

Compare avec give.

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

Tu peux dire give me the form ou give the form to me.

But explain behaves differently.

Mais explain fonctionne différemment.

Say, explain the answer to me.

Dis explain the answer to me.

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

On peut aussi mettre l’information dans une proposition en that.

Please explain to me why the train is late.

Dis Please explain to me why the train is late.

Notice that to me comes before the long question.

Remarque que to me se place avant la longue question.

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

Une autre phrase naturelle est she explained to us how the system works.

Explain can also appear without naming the person.

Tu peux aussi employer explain sans nommer la personne.

Could you explain the schedule?

Could you explain the schedule?

That sentence is complete because the person is understood.

La phrase est complète, car la personne est sous-entendue.

You can also use this pattern in a question.

Tu peux aussi utiliser cette structure dans une question.

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.

Et au passé : she explained the delay to her customers.

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

Si l’information est une question, place to me avant la proposition interrogative.

Please explain to me what happened.

Please explain to me what happened.

Do not confuse explain with tell.

Ne confonds pas explain et tell.

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

Tu peux dire tell me the answer, mais explain the answer to me.

The verb tell commonly allows the person directly after it.

Avec tell, la personne peut souvent suivre directement le verbe.

Explain normally needs to before the person.

Avec explain, il faut généralement placer to avant la personne.

Let us correct three sentences.

Corrigeons trois phrases.

“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.

« Explain to me why it changed » est également naturel.

The pattern is: explain something to someone.

La structure est : explain something to someone.

Find more examples and the transcript on the episode page.

Retrouve d’autres exemples et la transcription sur la page de l’épisode.

The link is in the description.

Le lien se trouve dans la description.

Keep learning one clear pattern at a time.

Continue à apprendre une structure claire à la fois.