Your English Toolbox

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 200

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

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

3 learning entries

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

1

explain something to someone

DEF

To make an idea or situation clear to a person.

With a person as the object, explain normally uses to: explain the rule to me.

Please explain the new schedule to the team.

Can you explain this word to me?

2

explain to someone why / what / how

DEF

To give someone the reason, information or method by using a question clause.

Place to the person before the longer question: explain to me why it changed.

Please explain to us why the meeting moved.

She explained to me how the app works.

3

tell someone something

DEF

To give a person information, news or a message.

Tell commonly allows the person directly after it: tell me the answer; explain normally needs to.

Tell me the answer, please.

I told my colleague the news this morning.