

Exercise

Ways of explaining or clarifying

Task 1

Go through the list of expressions. Surely you recognise most or all of them but do you use them? Tick the ones that you tend to employ in your spoken interactions.

you see When you are explaining something
what with when you are giving a number of reasons for a particular situation or problem
the thing is used for introducing an answer, comment, or explanation related to something that was just mentioned
to put it another way used when you are going to explain something in a different way in order to make it easier to understand
to put it in a nutshell used when you are going to explain a long or complicated idea, story etc in a quick and simple way
on this/that account used when giving the reason for something
for one thing...(for another thing) used for giving a reason for something
the whole point used for emphasizing that something is the main reason for something else
pure and simple used for saying that there is no additional explanation for something
it's not that...it's just that used when you are explaining why you are doing something
by extension used for explaining that a particular person or thing is affected by something only because they are connected to what you have just mentioned
at bottom used when explaining the basic cause or nature of something
as a matter of fact used when you are going to disagree with or correct what has just been said
as much as anything used for saying that something is one of the main reasons for a situation, feeling etc
inasmuch as used for adding a comment that limits what you have just said
in the interest(s) of something in order to preserve, develop, or achieve something

Taken from: <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/thesaurus-category/british/ways-of-explaining-or-clarifying>

Task 2

What would you say in these situations? Use the expressions from the table on the previous page to complete these dialogues.

1. A: Why didn't we visit?
B: Well,, it was too far away. And, she never invited us
2. A: Why did you decide on it?
B: This made my task easier, it was not necessary for me to make further inquiries.
3. A: What is Lady Snowblood about?
B: Murder as vengeance, This is a revenge story.
4. A: Fair trials help establish the truth and are a cornerstone of democracy,
B: Yes, it is vital that we reform the system fairness to everyone.
5. A: Why do you think she doesn't like you?
B: She hates all businessmen and,, me.
6. A: We had a big argument last night about moving together. He doesn't seem to consider it as an option for the moment being.
B: Most of those arguments are,, motivated by a fear of change.
7. A: The core mission of the police is to control crime.
B: They are having a difficult time, , all the drugs and violence on our streets.

Task 3

Create two situations in which you could use any of the expressions not used in Task 2.

Situation 1:

A:

B:

Situation 2:

A:

B: