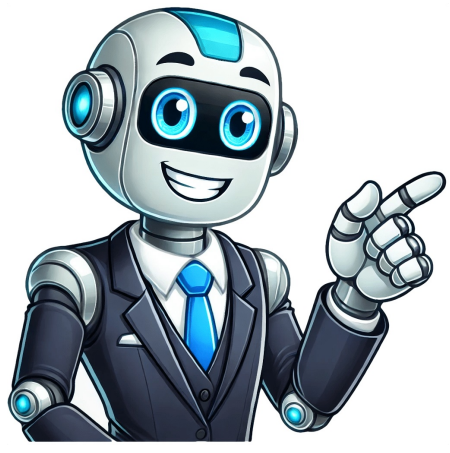


I'm not a bot



Hello. I am a little bit confused of using this word "explain" For example... 1. Let me explain about my family. 2. Let me explain my family What I've know is that The verb "explain" can be both an intransitive verb and a transitive verb. Therefore, how can I figure out which one is better to use? In your example either statement would work, though the first version is probably what you want. To explain about your family would be to explain some details about your family. To explain your family would be to provide reasons for how your family works or how it came to be. Most of the time, people explain some things related to their families, rather than trying to analyze their families as a social unit. Therefore, "Let me explain to you about my family" is probably more common than "Let me explain my family to you". Last edited: Aug 16, 2010 Hello! Are "Let me explain this word" & "Let me explain about this word" both correct? Thanks! Both are grammatical, but have different meanings. You have seen Owlman's explanation above. 'Explain a word' probably means 'give the meaning of a word', whereas 'explain about a word' might include that, but might also include why a word has been used. Hi, Can someone please explain me, if we can use 'suggested to me' in sentences? like he suggested to me. It looks more appropriate to use 'suggested me'. but I still wanted a confirmation! Are there any websites I can refer to for these sort of questions? Please let me know. far as I know you explain and suggest things to people. It may seem a bit counterintuitive if the counterparts of suggest and explain in your language follow the same pattern as the verb 'offer' or 'tell' in English but that's the say it is. Hello It is 'suggested to me'. 'Suggested me' can only be used in something like this (very contrived) situation: "I asked her to suggest someone who could fix the car. She suggested me." (She suggested that I could fix the car) I hope this helps . . . Hey! thanks for your reply. Could you please help me with some sentences using suggested to me? He suggested to me that we go for a walk. She suggested to me that we should get married. I suggested to her that we should wait a while before committing ourselves. I suggest to you that these examples should help you understand For sure.. thank you The boss suggested to me that I should take a holiday I couldn't remove the stain, then John suggested vinegar to me. "Are you suggesting to me that I should learn to spell?" So, as much as I understand, there is no way to make a sentence below using 'suggested to me". So, I used "offer". Are there any alternatives. Thanks. "I didn't know what to eat. He offered me some nice food." "I didn't know what to eat. He suggested to me that I might enjoy a pizza." "I didn't know what to eat. He suggested to me that I might enjoy a pizza." Thank you a lot but actually what I want to mean "He offered me a new meal I haven't tried before" and wanted to learn if a structure like " suggested to me + noun" is possible without continuing with "that I". But if not possible, is "offer sb noun" structure only way to express it? Thanks a lot. "Offer" and "suggest" do not have the same meaning so, no, you cannot express "He suggested to me..." by saying "He offered me..." Thank you so much. So I think I should prefer "suggest" to get my intended meaning and say "He suggested a nice meal to me". Is it correct? Thanks. Greetings! Definition of the verb "elaborate" from oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com: 1. to explain or describe something in a more detailed way:elaborate (on something):(1) He said he was resigning but did not elaborate on his reasons.(2) She went on to elaborate her argument.2. to develop a plan, an idea, etc. and make it complicated or detailed: In his plays he takes simple traditional tales and elaborates them. I'm interested only in the first item. Can I make the next conclusion from this definition and if not, then why?:If we want to convey the first meaning of the verb "to elaborate", we can use both "to elaborate on something" and "to elaborate something". That is always when we see "to elaborate on something", we can leave out "on" and keep only "to elaborate something". My remade sentences: (1a) He said he was resigning but did not elaborate his reasons. (2a) She went on to elaborate on her argument. (1) = (1a)? (2) = (2a)? Thanks! "He said he was resigning but did not elaborate his reasons" isn't idiomatic in any variety of English I'm familiar with. But I rarely hear "elaborate" used without "on" at all. Greetings! Definition of the verb "elaborate" from oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com: 1. to explain or describe something in a more detailed way:elaborate (on something):(1) He said he was resigning but did not elaborate on his reasons.(2) She went on to elaborate her argument.2. to develop a plan, an idea, etc. and make it complicated or detailed: In his plays he takes simple traditional tales and elaborates them. I'm interested only in the first item. Can I make the next conclusion from this definition and if not, then why?:If we want to convey the first meaning of the verb "to elaborate", we can use both "to elaborate on something" and "to elaborate something". That is always when we see "to elaborate on something", we can leave out "on" and keep only "to elaborate something". My remade sentences: (1a) He said he was resigning but did not elaborate his reasons. (2a) She went on to elaborate on her argument. (1) = (1a)? (2) = (2a)? Thanks! In general I think you elaborate on an idea, but you elaborate a thing. She elaborated her embroidery until her old jeans were a single mass of butterflies and flowers. I agree there are times you could use either form. I always hear it with "on". I rarely hear "elaborate" used without "on" at all. I always hear it with "on". I found two examples with the verb "elaborate" that fall under the first definition, "to explain or describe something in a more detailed way". Here are they: merriam-webster.com (examples that are seen in pressing "See More" button): (3) ... the National Weather Service ... advised all citizens in New Orleans's water-filled neighborhoods "to take the necessary tools for survival." The Weather Service elaborated (on): "Those going into attics should try to take an axe or hatchet with them so they can cut their way onto the roof to avoid drowning should rising flood waters continue to rise into the attic." (4) I'll be glad to elaborate (on) if you want to hear more. The examples above are written without "on" and, as I understand, we could also write them with "on". Your choice would be to write them with "on", right? Thanks! No in both cases. Neither example describes what is to be elaborated on, so you can only use "elaborate" by itself. Hey everyone, Im trying to explain to a friend of mine the difference between having experience in/of/with and to tell you the truth think Ive done more damage than good with my rambling explanations so heres hoping we can get some collective explanations on the subject. I have a lot of experience of working with children (This would be to me saying that I have had a good few years in the actual trade, like I've had a fair few jobs of that sort..?) I have a lot of experience in working with children (This sounds the most natural to my ear but explaining this is hard. I would say this sentence emphasises the actual action of working with children) I have a lot of experience with working with children. (This sounds awfully odd but then the more you repeat something in your mother tongue the less convincing it gets) SO, any better thought out and grammatically well orientated explanations especially welcome! Cheers me dears, Mish Mash I'm not sure if the phrase "to have experience of" is commonly used. "In" and "with" are more frequently used with it. I would think that to have experience in something refers to a particular field. For example, "I have a lot of experience in sales and marketing" or "I have experience in teaching." To have experience with something could be either a field or something more specific. While you could say, "I have experience with sales and marketing," you could also say, "I have a lot of experience with working with children." These are not very grammatical explanations, but I hope I helped. Often times you won't really need such a word. For example, "I have experience working with children" is perfectly acceptable. "I have experience in working with children" is also fine to say, although it actually seems slightly more unusual to me. this seems like the division to me: "I have a lot of experience of hunger" a personal experience, like i have of a lot of experience of being hungry as a child. "I have a lot of experience in hunger" i have studied it as a concept, not personal, more like its biological effects or sociological implications etc. "I have a lot of experience with hunger" this is a lot more ambiguous to me, so if someone said this it would depend on the context on which meaning it would take. eg. 1) i have a lot of experience with hunger, when i was little, food was very scarce, eg. 2) i have a lot of experience with hunger, in the laboratory we undertook many experiments as part of our investigation. how does that sound? Sophia Thank you all for the great contributions, i've handed on the explanations, although my friends still looking at me with big confused student eyes! Cheers! Mish Mash! I take this approach, which is pretty much aligned to the comments above: " Experience in " Experience Hey everyone, Im trying to explain to a friend of mine the difference between having experience in/of/with and to tell you the truth think Ive done more damage than good with my rambling explanations so heres hoping we can get some collective explanations on the subject. I have a lot of experience of working with children (This would be to me saying that I have had a good few years in the actual trade, like I've had a fair few jobs of that sort..?) I have a lot of experience in working with children (This sounds the most natural to my ear but explaining this is hard. I would say this sentence emphasises the actual action of working with children) I have a lot of experience with working with children. (This sounds awfully odd but then the more you repeat something in your mother tongue the less convincing it gets) SO, any better thought out and grammatically well orientated explanations especially welcome! Cheers me dears, Mish Mash Hiva folks... please see C.E. Eckersley in 'A Concise English Grammar for Foreign Students', Longmans 1961..Prepositions after nouns: - experience of a thing..... (unquote: as in 'I have experience of translation') - experience in doing things...(unquote: as in 'I have a lot of experience in working with children') I reckon that this fits the bill. The 'I have a lot of experience with working with children' sentence would sound a lot better if we dropped the 'working' (doing a thing), so would now look like: 'I have a lot of experience with children' - however, the meaning then changes somewhat. I hope this helps - and simplifies explanations. (Threads have been merged at this point. DonnyB - moderator) What are the differences among "my experience with English study", "my experience of English study" and "my experience in English study"? I think they mean the same. Thank you! Last edited by a moderator: Jul 1, 2020 Welcome to the forum, yzh1978! We need a complete sentence in order to be able to answer your question. Can you give us the full sentence, and let us know in what situation you would use it? Thanks! For instance, My experience with/in/of learning a foreign language began in junior high school. Can all the three preps be applied here? Thank you! Hello, I also have a doubt. ... If I follow gring27esp, then I should say "Let me tell you about my experience of my new job". However, shouldn't it be "Let me tell you about my experience in my new job"? Thanks, Annales Do we explain "something to someone" or "explain someone something"? For example "Tom asks Tim to explain the whole situation to Ann because she was confused" or "Explain Tom the situation or explain situation to Tom." We only explain something to someone. Do we explain "something to someone" or "explain someone something"? To explain is a transitive verb - it takes two objects (arguments): a direct object and an indirect object. The indirect object is usually preceded by "to" ".....L.....explained.... the answer.....to him/Tom Subject.....verb.....direct object.....indirect object.....".....L.....explained.....to him/Tom.....how to make a cake? Subject.....verb.....indirect object.....direct object You must log in or register to reply here. Hello, I'd like to know the difference of meaning between these two forms. I am aim at doing / I aim to do. This is unclear to me if they are equivalent or if aim at is a bit aggressive, or if I miss something else... Thanks in advance, Olivier Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I am aim at doing something. = I strive to do something. By using illustrations in class, I am at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. I aim to do something. = I attempt/plan to do something. This year, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Hm...I'm not sure that's a good explanation. Perhaps someone else can explain the difference better - if there is one at all. Hello, Thank you for your answer Erroy, I think I get the nuance between the two. Regards, Olivier Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I am aim at doing something. = I strive to do something. By using illustrations in class, I am at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. I aim to do something. = I attempt/plan to do something. This year, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Your example of the figurative "aim at" sounds bizarre to me. I think it's always "aim to" plus the infinitive. I would only say "aim at" in relation to a target. Billy gawt a good whoopin' when he aimed his BB gun at little Brenda. I've always loved Geraldine, and I aim to marry her. Z. Round these parts, aim to and aim at meaning intend to are colloial, often heard, but rarely used. These expressions are sometimes used by speakers who wish to be amusingly or deliberately informal, for others, it is a part of their normal speech. By using illustrations in class, I aim at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. For some reason I can't quite explain, I don't like that construct. I personally would say it as: By using illustrations in class, I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. Perhaps it's the intend synonym sticking in my head, perhaps not. We aim at a target, and we intend or aim "to do" something. And a gerund isn't really a target...or is it? But I would also probably automatically "correct" it if I were editing someone else's work. Probably leading to a usage argument. Hmm. Hello, I thought it was all clear with the first answer but it is getting more and more complicated indeed. The things that "aims" in my context is a project, a research, a work, a study, etc. For instance: - this project aims at applying the new results to this application field... - this research field aims to go beyond usual devices... With the meaning of "intend", "strive", "attempt". Which form would you suggest? Thank you for your help, Olivier Hello, I thought it was all clear with the first answer but it is getting more and more complicated indeed. The things that "aims" in my context is a project, a research, a work, a study, etc. For instance: - this project aims at applying the new results to this application field... - this research field aims to go beyond usual devices... Others may have more to offer, but my personal rule is... when in doubt (and not producing literature) go with the proven winner. intend to = set out to do, have as a goal strive = to work to accomplish attempt = to try to accomplish propose = suggests as its goal I kinda like strives to apply the new results and field proposes to go beyond the usual For me, "aim to" (hope to/try to etc) sounds fine. However, I can't say I've ever heard "aim at" used in any context...the examples above sound awkward to me... Hm...I'm beginning to think "aim at doing" and "aim to do" mean the same thing, and that the former is simply indicative of a sloppier style. I know for a fact that I've heard/seen/read it used - so it's not completely unthinkable - but I guess it's just not good style. I for one would most likely go with "aim to do". Just some thoughts. Welcome to the forums, Olivier. Tough question - let me try: I am at doing something. = I strive to do something. By using illustrations in class, I am at enhancing my theoretical lectures with visual aids. I aim to do something. = I attempt/plan to do something. This year, I aim to get back in touch with all of my high school friends. Hm...I'm not sure that's a good explanation. Perhaps someone else can explain the difference better - if there is one at all. Hello everyone, I hope I'm doing this right as this is the first time I have written here, but I've been using these forums for a few months now and have found some extremely useful stuff, thank you everyone. I just wanted to add to this discussion (only 5 years late!) that I agree with Erroy's initial analysis, and so does the free dictionary. Keep up the good work everyone, it is all very enlightening! Hi everyone, I know this is an old thread already but I decide to add one more thing lest anyone find this useful. Cambridge dictionary suggests the same usage as elroy did: dictionary(dot)com, however, suggests both aim at and aim to can mean "to strive". Welcome to the English forum, Alejo Xu! I would never use aim at -ing. If this construction is used, it is overwhelmingly less common than aim to (e.g. on COCA, the US corpus). However, I would use it in the passive: This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. No. It sounds awkward and lumpy - not natural at all. Hi, I remember clearly back in the day at school when learning english that the correct grammatical rule was "to aim at something". My guess would be that with time this grammatical rule has been taken over by a wrong use of grammar (aim to). This is unfortunately too common, I noticed ,with English grammar rules... the correct grammatical rule was "to aim at something" A rather inadequate grammatical rule. The form "to aim to (infinitive)" has been around for a few hundred years and is perfectly correct English. 1745 E. Haywood Female Spectator II. 313 But to return to that Subject, which, both the above-cited Letters, in my Judgment, aim to prove. 2011 Hull Daily Mail (Nexis) 11 July 4 Like all NHS organisations, our capital budget has been reduced significantly as we aim to make substantial savings over the next five years. OK andy! My mistake. Thanks for the correction and my inadequate assumptions. "No need for confusion. Use "aim to" when you refer to yourself, and "aim at" when you refer to a third party, e.g We "aimed to" ... or "aimed at" ... This paper "aimed at". Here, "This paper" is the third party!! I'm afraid that doesn't work. "We aimed to win the war." "This paper aims to show that the Moon is made of cheese." "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese." "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese." Hello, Andy, Why does the second example work but not the fourth? Many thanks.[QUOTE] I found this in the OALD : aim 1. to try or plan to achieve something. at doing sth. They're aiming at training everybody by the end of the year. Here "aim at" is followed by a gerund and the sentence is in the active voice. How foes the OALD finds it fine? Thanks a lot. A scientific paper would normally start with a stated aim: Aim To demonstrate that the Moon is made of cheese. That seems to make "This paper aims at showing that the Moon is made of cheese" unnatural. I don't think there are any hard-and-fast rules. If we use the active form we are more likely to use the infinitive and if we use the passive form we use the gerund (always?). Examples from earlier in the thread: I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty. Oddly, I can accept "We aimed at winning the war" in the past tense, but I find the present tense "We aim at winning the war" less acceptable. Thanks a lot. Then I feel you would also recommend using "They aim to train" in the Oxford example in my post #24 above. Right? Thanks. I would use "to train" in that example, but that's just my preference. They're aiming to train everybody by the end of the year. However, I think that the continuous tense makes "at training" much more idiomatic than with the simple present. They're aiming at training everybody by the end of the year? They're aiming to train is different from They aim to train as far as the use of the infinitive is concerned. I think there are huge differences in dialect, hence all the seemingly contradictory comments. Andygc - you said that you're happy with the second example below. I am not. I have been persuaded it is correct in some American English but it sounds wrong to my English English ear. I prefer the weapon reading of aim at. >I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. >This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. >This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty. Secondly, it is worth pointing out that you have introduced a further complication - your second and third examples are passive. Whilst this works for aim at, it doesn't work for aim to. Andygc - Your third example should in fact be This policy aims to eliminate poverty. There is no reason to make it passive, and it does not work. Does it sound better now? First, I didn't introduce any complications. Examples from earlier in the thread: I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty. By using illustrations in class, I aim to enhance my theoretical lectures with visual aids. However, I would use it in the passive: This policy is aimed at eliminating poverty. Does this work? This policy is aimed to eliminate poverty." You said Your third example should in fact be This policy aims to eliminate poverty. There is no reason to make it passive, and it does not work. Does it sound better now? "Should be"? Apart from it not being my example, why "should"? Does not work? There is nothing wrong with using the passive, and using the passive in the way e2fofur did in his example is perfectly normal in British English - which both he and I speak, second and third examples are passive. Whilst this works for aim at, it doesn't work for aim to. Who claimed that it did? Not I, as should be perfectly clear from my use of . After reading all your contributions, am I right I sum it up this way: Aim to do something Or be aimed at doing something Or once again I didn't get it ?! Thanks @ "Cambridge" does not say that anything is 100% correct. The translation you quote is from the PASSWORD English-French Dictionary © 2014 K Dictionaries Ltd. K Dictionaries Ltd is a company based in Tel Aviv that specialises in providing translations. We cannot tell if an Israeli source is a reliable source of idiomatic English. There's certainly nothing ungrammatical about "He aims at finishing tomorrow", but the discussion here has been about idiomatic usage, and there are plenty of posts that suggest that most of the native English speaker would find "He aims at finishing tomorrow" unacceptable. what? PASSWORD? Israeli source? Sorry, if I'm not mistaken the translation I quoted is from: Cambridge University Press, University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, UK. Website Terms of Use You go to the official webpage of the university press, cambridge.org -> digital products -> you click 'cambridge dictionary' and it takes you here: Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus Then you type: aim / or / aim at and you check the results. Cheers, Try reading the details on the web page you linked to, which acknowledges the source, and which I quoted verbatim. There are two such acknowledgements on that page. (Translation of aim from the GLOBAL English-French Dictionary© 2016 K Dictionaries Ltd) and (Translation of aim from the PASSWORD English-French Dictionary © 2014 K Dictionaries Ltd) Please do try to be a bit more careful when identifying your sources. Particularly when you are telling native English speakers what is right or wrong in their own language. I'm not a native speaker of English. However I would like to share my opinion regarding the subject. As far as I understand "aim at" has two different meanings. He aimed the gun at me (the literal meaning) The tutorial aims at teaching you the best techniques (It is more likely a figurative meaning) Correct me if I'm wrong. Thank you in advance. Hi, I have learned that you can either say "the reason that" or "the reason why" when you want to explain the reason. For example The reason (that/why) I couldn't go was (because) I was sick. In my understanding, you can use either "that" or "why". (You can also say it without them.) You can also say it with or without "because" (Please correct me if I'm wrong at this point.) However, the other day, I was writing an formal email to someone and I asked my girlfriend (a native speaker) to proofread. I used both "why" and "because" in a sentence which has the same structure as the above underlined one. She told me not to use "why" and "because", and the reason why was because p) it sounded too informal. She also said it would be perfectly fine if I were talking, but it did not sound good in writing. She couldn't explain why. Also, I read in a grammar book (for native speaker kids) that the meaning of "reason" includes "why", so to say "the reason why" is repetitive and redundant. However, I have never learned/read these things(negative opinions about using "why" or "because") in other grammar books or in the dictionaries. Do you agree that to say "reason why" is too informal or redundant? How about "because" part? Any advice would be appreciated. Thank you. Do you agree that to say "reason why" is too informal or redundant? Yes, it's redundant. How about "because" part? Yes, also redundant. The reason that we didn't go is that it was snowing. OK The reason we didn't go is that it was snowing. BETTER In my opinion, unless someone screams at you, "WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR NOT GOING!?!?" just eliminate the word, "Reason" altogether, and change the entire sentence. We did not go because it was snowing. BEST Let me know if you need further clarification. Do you agree that to say "reason why" is too informal or redundant? How about "because" part? Any advice would be appreciated. "The reason why ..." and "the reason is because ..." are both redundant. It follows that "the reason why is because ..." is even more redundant. The reason something happened is also why it happened. You don't need to say both. To say that something happened because ... is the same as saying that it happened for the reason that You don't need to say both of those, either. In other words, brighthope, your girlfriend is right. You'll be amazed at how often that happens. Replies already! Well, then, I'll add a new comment rather than edit my original. I should have said in my first comment that, even though the reason why and the reason is because are redundant expressions, they are very common. People say things like "the reason why I called you is ..." or "the reason I called you is because ..." all the time. So (a) don't be surprised when you hear them often and (b) if you forget and use one of these phrases in casual speech or writing, it's not a big deal. You'll have a lot of company. I came across this thread, and I thought I might contribute to it, even if it's a bit late. Both expressions (the reason why and the reason that) are correct and DIFFERENT in meaning. Way too many people tend to confuse their usage: 'The reason why' is followed by the 'result' of the situation, e.g.: The heavy rain was the reason why we couldn't attend the event. On the other hand, 'the reason that' is followed by the reason itself, e.g.: We couldn't attend the event for the reason that it was raining heavily. (The 'that' introduces the clause which explains what the reason was/is/...) Is it clear? I hope so And in the sentence: That is the reason that / why I want to go home? Both are correct? Any differences? "that" is not correct for me in your sentence. In post #7 you find the reason why I regard "that" as incorrect. I think there is a difference. In the following sentence: 'You could write a cause-effect paragraph to explain the reasons that/why a certain event happened.' I believe 'why' is the correct word to use, 'that' doesn't seem correct in this case. Can you explain to me the reason you did that? that or why? Last edited by a moderator: Jul 2, 2015 I wouldn't use either. The following both sound better to me than using either "why" or "that": "...to explain the reasons a certain event happened." "Can you explain to me the reason you did that?" 01 The heavy rain was the reason why we couldn't attend the event. 02 We couldn't attend the event for the reason that it was raining heavily. I feel the two sentences given by inglesapoyos in post#7 make great sense. What do you think of them? Would someone shed some more new light on it? Thank you. If you can use "because", "for the reason that" is unnecessarily wordy. Don't use it. I've spent a lot of time in Mexico and attended velorios and the like, but I was wondering if someone could offer me a more detailed explanation of the novenario when someone dies. Please keep in mind that I'm not Roman Catholic. . . . I was also curious if it is observed even if the deceased was not religious, although not atheist. Si la familia es.If the family is. Thank you Es una tradicion que despues del sepelio empieza el Tradicional "Novenario", durante nueve dias se resa el rosario, tambien mucha gente envia flores. It is a tradition after the funeral to start "The Novenario" during nine days people say the rosary, also many people send flowers. Indeed, it is a tradition , but from what I know about Catholicism it is of great importance because the people who attend the "novenario" pray for the soul of the deceased, so that he/she is forgiven for all his/her sins by God and accepted into heaven. Once it is completed the faithful believe that they have help in some way for this person to rest in peace. It kind of gives closure to family members as well. I hope this helps' KIBS I've spent a lot of time in Mexico and attended velorios and the like, but I was wondering if someone could offer me a more detailed explanation of the novenario when someone dies. Please keep in mind that I'm not Roman Catholic. . . . I was also curious if it is observed even if the deceased was not religious, although not atheist. Thank you Hi Kate, My late father-in-law was an atheist who memorably refused to see a priest on his deathbed (Tú y tus curas me la). However, his widow and daughters did carry out a novena. I'm afraid I can't offer you a detailed account of what happens as it does seem to vary from place to place, but the basic idea is that a novena is 9 days of prayer, sometimes non-stop. In some cases the rosary is repeated over and over, and in others, one of the mourners will lead the others in various kinds of prayers. I think the guided repetition is quite therapeutic for some grievers. I hope this helps. Lola A novenario (nine days of prayer, can be masses or just rosaries) or a tríduo de misas (three masses, on three consecutive days) are the most widely used forms of observance after the deceased has been laid to rest. Usually, the family is catholic, however, most of these traditional observances are for the relief of the living, i.e., we believe we do everything we can for the soul of our loved one, regardless if the person was a firm believer or not. We believe we can "help them gain entrance to the kingdom of God". (This explanation is extremely simple and superficial. Let me see where you can go to, so that you can learn more about our traditions. First choice, your local catholic church, regardless of your faith. I am sure, they will try to answer your questions. There are also the Gregorian masses, which many people claim that even the most evil person (deceased) cannot resist and will subsequently gain entrance thru the pearly gates. These masses should be held for a complete month, one mass for each day of the month, and as far as I know, the salvation of the deceased has to be the only intention of the mass. In other words, the priest should pray only for that person's soul. The novena isn't done just for deaths. It's considered one of the strongest forms of prayer, and there are hundreds of possible novenas-for specific needs, to specific saints, for specific times, etc.