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ex·pla·na·tion (ĕk′splə-nā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of explaining: *launched into a detailed explanation.* **2.** Something that explains: *That was supposedly the explanation for their misdeeds.* **3.** A mutual clarification of misunderstandings; a reconciliation.

ex·plan·a·tive (ĭk-splăn′ə-tĭv) *adj.* Explanatory. **—ex·plan′a·tive·ly** *adv.*

ex·plan·a·to·ry (ĭk-splăn′ə-tôr′ē) *adj.* Serving or intended to explain: *an explanatory paragraph.* **—ex·plan′a·to′ri·ly** *adv.*

ex·plant (ĕk-splănt′) *tr.v.* **-plant·ed, -plant·ing, -plants** To remove (living tissue) from the natural site of growth and place in a medium for culture. ❖ *n.* (ĕks′plănt′) Explanted tissue. [EX- + (IM)PLANT.] **—ex′plan·ta′tion** *n.*

ex·ple·tive (ĕk′splĭ-tĭv) *n.* **1.** An exclamation or oath, especially one that is profane, vulgar, or obscene. **2a.** A word or phrase that does not contribute any meaning but is added only to fill out a sentence or a metrical line. **b.** *Linguistics* A word or other grammatical element that has no meaning but is needed to fill a syntactic position, such as the words *it* and *there* in the sentences *It's raining* and *There are many books on the table.* ❖ *adj.* Added or inserted in order to fill out something, such as a sentence or a metrical line. [< Late Latin *explētivus,* serving to fill out < Latin *explētus,* past participle of *explēre,* to fill out : *ex-,* ex- + *plēre,* to fill; see **pelə-**[1] in App. I.]

ex·ple·to·ry (ĕk′splĭ-tôr′ē) *adj.* Expletive.

ex·plic·a·ble (ĭk-splĭk′ə-bəl, ĕk′splĭ-kə-) *adj.* Possible to explain: *explicable phenomena; explicable behavior.* **—ex·plic′a·bly** *adv.*

ex·pli·cate (ĕk′splĭ-kāt′) *tr.v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates** To make clear the meaning of; explain. See Synonyms at **explain.** [Latin *explicāre, explicāt-,* to unfold, explain : *ex-,* ex- + *plicāre,* to fold; see **plek-** in App. I.] **—ex′pli·ca′tion** *n.* **—ex′pli·ca′tor** *n.*

ex·pli·ca·tion de texte (ĕk-splē-kä-syôn də tĕkst′) *n., pl.* **ex·pli·ca·tions de texte** (-syôn) A method of literary criticism in which the interrelated details of a written work are examined and analyzed in an effort to understand its structure and discover meanings. [French : *explication,* explanation + *de,* of + *texte,* text.]

ex·pli·ca·tive (ĕk′splĭ-kā′tĭv, ĭk-splĭk′ə-tĭv) *adj.* Serving to explain; explanatory. **—ex′pli·ca′tive** *n.* **—ex′pli·ca′tive·ly** *adv.*

ex·plic·it (ĭk-splĭs′ĭt) *adj.* **1a.** Fully and clearly expressed; leaving nothing implied: *explicit approval.* **b.** Fully developed or formulated: *has an explicit idea of what to say in the paper.* **2.** Forthright and unreserved in expression: *They were explicit in their criticism.* **3a.** Readily observable: *an explicit sign of trouble.* **b.** Describing or portraying nudity or sexual activity in graphic detail. [Latin *explicitus,* past participle of *explicāre,* to unfold; see EXPLICATE.] **—ex·plic′it·ly** *adv.* **—ex·plic′it·ness** *n.*

✦**SYNONYMS** *explicit, definite, express, specific* These adjectives mean entirely clear and unambiguous: *explicit statements; a definite answer; my express wishes; a specific purpose.*
ANTONYM *ambiguous*

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explicit function *n.* A function, such as $y = 4x + 3$, whose value may be computed directly from the one or more independent variables.

ex·plode (ĭk-splōd′) *v.* **-plod·ed, -plod·ing, -plodes** *—intr.* **1.** To release mechanical, chemical, or nuclear energy by the sudden production of gases in a confined space: *The bomb exploded.* **2.** To burst violently as a result of internal pressure. **3.** To shatter with a loud noise: *The vase exploded into tiny pieces when it hit the floor.* **4.** To make an emotional outburst: *My neighbor exploded in rage at the trespassers.* **5.** To increase suddenly, sharply, and without control: *The population level in this area has exploded during the past 12 years.* **6.** To change state or appearance suddenly: *Over the weekend the trees exploded with color.* **7.** *Sports* To hit a golf ball out of a sand trap with a shot that scatters the sand. *—tr.* **1.** To cause to release energy or burst violently and noisily: *The children exploded three firecrackers.* **2.** To show to be false or unreliable: *explode a hypothesis.* **3.** *Sports* To hit (a golf ball) out of a sand trap with an explosive shot. [Latin *explōdere,* to drive out by clapping : *ex-,* ex- + *plaudere,* to clap.] **—ex·plod′er** *n.*

ex·plod·ed view (ĕk-splō′dĭd) *n.* An illustration or diagram of a construction that shows its parts separately but in positions that indicate their proper relationships to the whole.

ex·ploit (ĕk′sploit′, ĭk-sploit′) *n.* **1.** An act or deed, especially a brilliant or heroic one. See Synonyms at **feat**[1]. **2.** *Computers* A program or system designed to take advantage of a particular error or security vulnerability in computers or networks. ❖ *tr.v.* (ĭk-sploit′, ĕk′sploit′) **-ploit·ed, -ploit·ing, -ploits 1.** To employ to the greatest possible advantage: *exploit one's talents.* **2.** To make use of selfishly or unethically: *a corporation that exploited peasant labor.* [Middle English < Old French *esploit* < Latin *explicitum,* neuter past participle of *explicāre,* to unfold; see EXPLICATE.] **—ex·ploit′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* **—ex·ploit′a·ble** *adj.* **—ex·ploit′a·tive, ex·ploit′ive** *adj.* **—ex·ploit′a·tive·ly, ex·ploit′ive·ly** *adv.* **—ex·ploit′er** *n.*

ex·ploi·ta·tion (ĕk′sploi-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of employing to the greatest possible advantage: *exploitation of copper deposits.* **2.** Utilization of another person or group for selfish purposes: *exploitation of unwary consumers.* **3.** An advertising or publicity program.

ex·plo·ra·tion (ĕk′splə-rā′shən) *n.* The act or an instance of exploring: *Arctic exploration; exploration of new theories.* **—ex·plor′a·to′ry** (ĭk-splôr′ə-tôr′ē) *adj.*

ex·plore (ĭk-splôr′) *v.* **-plored, -plor·ing, -plores** *—tr.* **1.** To investigate systematically; examine: *explore every possibility.* **2.** To search into or travel in for the purpose of discovery: *exploring outer space.* **3.** *Medicine* To examine (a body cavity or interior part) for diagnostic purposes, especially by surgery. *—intr.* To make a careful examination or search: *scientists who have been known to explore in this region of the earth.* [Latin *explōrāre : ex-,* ex- + perhaps *plōrāre,* to cry out, as to rouse game.]

ex·plor·er (ĭk-splôr′ər) *n.* **1.** One that explores, especially one that explores a geographic area. **2.** An implement or a tool used for exploring; a probe. **3. Explorer** A person aged 14–20 who is a participant in the exploring program of the Boy Scouts of America.

ex·plo·sion (ĭk-splō′zhən) *n.* **1a.** A release of mechanical, chemical, or nuclear energy in a sudden and often violent manner with the generation of high temperature and usually with the release of gases. **b.** A violent bursting as a result of internal pressure. **c.** The loud, sharp sound made as a result of either of these actions. **2.** A sudden, often vehement outburst: *an explosion of rage.* **3.** A sudden, great increase: *a population explosion; the explosion of illegal drug use.* **4.** *Linguistics* See **plosion.** [Latin *explōsiō, explōsiōn-,* a driving off < *explōsus,* past participle of *explōdere,* to drive out by clapping; see EXPLODE.]

ex·plo·sive (ĭk-splō′sĭv) *adj.* **1.** Relating to or having the nature of an explosion. **2.** Tending to explode. ❖ *n.* **1.** A substance, especially a prepared chemical, that explodes or causes explosion. **2.** *Linguistics* A plosive. **—ex·plo′sive·ly** *adv.* **—ex·plo′sive·ness** *n.*

ex·po (ĕk′spō) *n., pl.* **-pos** *Informal* An exposition.

ex·po·nent (ĭk-spō′nənt, ĕk′spō′nənt) *n.* **1.** One that expounds or interprets. **2.** One that speaks for, represents, or advocates: *Our senator is an exponent of free trade.* **3.** *Abbr.* **exp** *Mathematics* A number or symbol, as 3 in $(x + y)^3$, placed to the right of and above another number, symbol, or expression, denoting the power to which that number, symbol, or expression is to be raised. Also called *power.* ❖ *adj.* Expository; explanatory. [Latin *expōnēns, expōnent-,* present participle of *expōnere,* to expound; see EXPOUND.]

ex·po·nen·tial (ĕk′spə-nĕn′shəl) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to an exponent. **2.** *Mathematics* **a.** Containing, involving, or expressed as an exponent. **b.** Expressed in terms of a designated power of *e,* the base of natural logarithms. **—ex′po·nen′tial·ly** *adv.*

ex·po·nen·ti·a·tion (ĕk′spə-nĕn′shē-ā′shən) *n. Mathematics* The act of raising a quantity to a power.

ex·port (ĭk-spôrt′, ĕk′spôrt′) *v.* **-port·ed, -port·ing, -ports** *—tr.* **1.** To send or transport (a commodity, for example) abroad, especially for trade or sale. **2.** To cause the spread of (an idea, for example) in another part of the world; transmit. **3.** *Computers* **a.** To send (data) from one program to another: *"You'll need to export your spreadsheet file into a desktop publishing program"* (Jon Pepper). **b.** To use an application to store (data) on disk, usually for use by another program. *—intr.* To send or transport abroad merchandise, especially for sale or trade. ❖ *n.* (ĕk′spôrt′) Exportation. [Middle English *exsport* < Latin *exportāre : ex-,* ex- + *portāre,* to carry; see **per-**[2] in App. I.] **—ex·port′a·bil′i·ty** *n.* **—ex·port′a·ble** *adj.* **—ex·port′er** *n.*

ex·por·ta·tion (ĕk′spôr-tā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of exporting. **2.** Something exported; an export.

ex·pose (ĭk-spōz′) *tr.v.* **-posed, -pos·ing, -pos·es 1a.** To subject or allow to be subjected to an action, influence, or condition: *exposed themselves to disease; exposed their children to classical music.* **b.** To subject (a photographic film, for example) to the action of light. **c.** To deprive of shelter or protection; lay open to danger or harm: *troops that were exposed to gunfire.* **2.** To make visible: *Cleaning exposed the grain of the wood.* See Synonyms at **show. 3a.** To make known (something discreditable). **b.** To reveal the guilt or wrongdoing of: *expose a criminal.* **4.** To engage in indecent exposure of (oneself). [Middle English *exposen* < Old French *exposer,* alteration (influenced by *poser,* to put, place) of Latin *expōnere,* to set forth; see EXPOUND.] **—ex·pos′er** *n.*

ex·po·sé (ĕk′spō-zā′) *n.* **1.** An exposure or a revelation of something discreditable. **2.** A formal exposition of facts. [French, past participle of *exposer,* to expose < Old French; see EXPOSE.]

ex·po·si·tion (ĕk′spə-zĭsh′ən) *n.* **1.** A setting forth of meaning or intent. **2a.** A statement or rhetorical discourse intended to give information about or an explanation of difficult material. **b.** The art or technique of composing such discourses. **3.** *Music* **a.** The first part of a composition in sonata form that introduces the themes. **b.** The opening section of a fugue. **4.** The part of a play that provides the background information needed to understand the characters and the action. **5.** An act or example of exposing. **6.** A public exhibition or show, as of artistic or industrial developments. [Middle English *exposicioun* < Old French *exposition* < Latin *expositiō, expositiōn-* < *expositus,* past participle of *expōnere,* to expound; see EXPOUND.] **—ex·pos′i·tive** (ĭk-spŏz′ĭ-tĭv), **ex·pos′i·to′ry** (-tôr′ē) *adj.* **—ex·pos′i·tor** *n.*

ex post fac·to (ĕks′ pōst făk′tō) *adj.* Formulated, enacted, or operating retroactively: *"When we apply today's morality to yesterday's mores, we indulge* in ex post facto *judgment"* (William Safire). [Latin *ex postfactō : ex,* from + *postfactō,* ablative of *postfactum,* that which is done afterward.]

ex post facto law *n.* A law that retroactively makes criminal an act that was not criminal at the time it was done. In the United States, the passage of such laws is forbidden by the Constitution.

ex·pos·tu·late (ĭk-spŏs′chə-lāt′) *v.* **-lat·ed, -lat·ing, -lates** *—intr.* To reason earnestly with someone in an effort to dissuade or correct; remonstrate. See Synonyms at **object.** *—tr.* To say in protest; object: "[He] *expostulated that they had every right to hold a street meeting"* (Pierre Berton). [Latin *expostulāre, expostulāt- : ex-,* intensive pref.; see EX- + *postulāre,* to demand; see **prek-** in App. I.] **—ex·pos′tu·la′tion** *n.* **—ex·pos′tu·la′tor** *n.* **—ex·pos′tu·la·to′ry** (-lə-tôr′ē), **ex·pos′tu·la′tive** *adj.*

ex·po·sure (ĭk-spō′zhər) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of exposing, as: **a.** An act of subjecting or an instance of being subjected to an action or an influence: *their first exposure to big city life.* **b.** Appearance in public

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	ŏŏ	took
ä	father	ōŏr	lure
ĕ	pet	ōō	boot
ē	be	ŭ	cut
ĭ	pit	ûr	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
îr	pier	*th*	this
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about, item
ô	paw		
ôr	core		

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ′ (secondary), as in dictionary (dĭk′shə-nĕr′ē).