

I'm not a bot



























My question is: is there flexibility in how one can punctuate the phrase "Why not?" The answer may seem obvious at first...it is a question after all. However, it's also a common idiom, and I am wondering if that offers a choice in how it's punctuated. I became curious about this after seeing dictionaries, including Cambridge and Collins, using the phrase in example sentences sans the question mark: "Do you want Italian food tonight?" "Sure, why not." . I said we were, too, so he said why not let him take us to dinner somewhere and then all come together. The second example sounds especially wrong, and as if it's missing quotation marks. Of course, most dictionary examples of the phrase in a sentence included question marks. So are the provided examples above errors? Edit: The first comment suggesting this is a possible duplicate links to a statement, not a question. As this article in the Spanish Wikipedia notes: El vocablo Filipinas deriva del nombre del rey Felipe II de España. The Philippines were named for King Philip II of Spain. They were Las Islas Filipinas, which was anglicized to the Philippine Islands. The noun form retains the F (Filipino), while the adjective form uses Ph (Philippine Embassy). (I've seen older texts in British English that referred to the natives as "Philippinos.") As to why, there's this answer: English never had a suitable equivalent for Filipino a Philippine, Philippian or Philippinian probably just didn't sound right, so English adopted the Spanish word Filipino, retaining the letter F and the suffix, ino." It's interesting to note that the country's official appellation in Filipino is Repblika ng Pilipinas. The Filipino Express article explains that as well. Edit: Slate has another take on Filipino/Philippines, but still doesn't explain the discrepancy in spelling between the noun and adjective forms. Most answers focus on the fact that the cited text is a headline / noun phrase rather than a complete sentence, but I think the real issue here is Why don't we normally include the infinitive marker "to" between initial "Why" and an infinitive verb form?Since "sentence" is not a structural unit but is merely determined by punctuation such as a period, it's not really helpful to discuss whether it's a "complete sentence" in order to explain the structure of the cited text. That said, the cited text is a headline, title, etc, but it is not a noun phrase.In The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language (Page 326) by H&P, the noun phrase (NP) is defined as follows:Except in what we refer to as the fused-head construction (Two of them were broken; Many would disagree; It benefits the rich), NPs consist of a noun as head, alone or accompanied by one or more dependents.The cited text does not consist of a noun as head, nor is it a fused-head construction per CaGEL (Page 1077, footnote):Why (which has no counterpart in ever) appears freely in the interrogative construction, as in This is why I'm leaving, but is marginally possible in the pseudo-cleft: Why I'm leaving is that/because there's no opportunity to use any initiative. It does not occur elsewhere in fused relatives.Therefore, the cited text is not an NP but an interrogative clause. Now, a why interrogative clause is generally used as a main clause when why or why not is followed by a bare infinitival.Why bother?Why not go there??She asked why bother.??She asked why not go there?But when why is followed by a to-infinitival, it's the other way around.This section tells you why to use page-level permissions. [from @Jon Pardy's answer]?Why to use page-level permissions? [as a main clause]CaGEL (Page 878) says that the infinitival interrogative is used exclusively for direction questions (cf. information questions). Here, by the infinitival interrogative I think CaGEL means to-infinitival interrogatives, but not bare-infinitival interrogatives. I personally think the marker to before infinitivals denotes a goal as in the preposition to, so it's understandable why direction questions seeking 'direction' requires to in the infinitival interrogative.Now, the cited text from Google Support is a title, and titles can have many different forms including subordinate clauses. Therefore, it was legitimately used as a title showing a direction question that is normally only embedded in a matrix clause.If to were omitted from the cited text, it would be an information question:Why use page-level permissions?This would be a title containing a main clause (with or without the question mark), because why followed by a bare infinitival may only be used as a main clause as shown above. And this could most likely be interpreted as questioning the validity of the decision to use page-level permissions over other types of permissions, thereby making the title sound less formal at the very least. I'm afraid I have to disagree here. From my understanding, and a recent article in the Atlantic, derived from the new text Marketplace of the Marvelous: The Strange Origins of Modern Medicine, referring to a psychiatrist as a shrink refers not specifically to head-shrinking tribesmen, but to the field of phrenology, a significantly closer cultural institution to psychiatry. "The national obsession with head size and shape also infected daily conversation. Many modern phrases trace their roots to phrenology, including highbrow and lowbrow, well rounded, and shrink (as in shrinking certain undesirable qualities). Getting your head examined also has phrenological roots. Though generally considered an insult today, in the past, it was just what most people wanted. By the mid-19th century, the Fowlers publications could be found all over the country, and phrenological ideas had become a part of everyday conversation." "To answer your question, reading up on phrenology in general can explain a number of the specific phrases we use for psychiatry, since phrenology dealt directly with size of different parts of the head as means of attempting to quantify different attributes. Kris's answer is correct, and provides a general explanation of the difference between the words "that" and "which." "I would like to add that in most contexts, "which" acts as a coordinating conjunction and requires a comma before it ("This book, which is my favorite..."), while "that" can function something as a pronoun ("That is why..."), an adjective ("That dog..."), or a coordinating conjunction that typically does not allow a comma before it ("I chose the book that was my favorite..."). Due to the non-restrictive nature of a relative clause introduced by "which," the clause is considered a parenthetical, and therefore must be enclosed by commas, parentheses, or dashes. The lack of a comma before "that" helps indicate that the relative clause is necessary to fully specify the noun phrase, and is therefore a dependent clause tied to the preceding clause. So in most cases, "which" requires a comma, but "that" cannot have a comma before it. In your example, however, "I have flunked the exam, that is why I am attending coaching classes" is a comma-splice. This is because "that" must connect to the noun immediately preceding it, which in this case is the exam, not the fact that the speaker flunked the exam (which is what "which" modifies, but we can only know this because it doesn't make sense to assume that "which" modifies "exam"--syntactically, it's impossible to tell). Since "that" does not connect to "exam," the second clause, "that is why I am attending coaching classes," is an independent clause (hence the suggestion in Kris's answer that "that" should be used to start a new sentence), and therefore cannot be joined to the preceding clause with only a comma. I see a subtle difference, which might be more obvious to anyone into Systems Thinking or NLP. The first has a more passive meaning, in that it implies that a cause exists for everybody's desire to help, without specifying where that cause exists. The second implies that the cause lies with everybody. You can see this more clearly if you use an example with something inanimate in it: Why is that the ball always comes through my window?Why does the ball always come through my window? The ball doesn't come through the window of its own accord, of course. We would normally say something like, "Why do the kids next door always hit the ball through my window?" instead, because to assign the action to the ball, rather than the people hitting it, would be strange. We might use "Why is it that..." more often when the cause of an event is unclear. It can also help us look outside the immediate cause for external influences: Why do sparrows always fly into my window? (Stupid birds) Why is it that sparrows always fly into my window? (Because they can't see the glass). Thank you for making me aware of this. Another linguistic Systems Thinking tool to add to my box. Yes, that perception is correct.The reason (why) that perception is correct is that why is a rather special relative pronoun.Indeed, it's a pronoun that can only refer to one word: reason.Try it with anything else and you get garbage:the reason why he did it\*the cause why he did it\*the intention why he did it\*the effect why he did it\*(ungrammatical phrases and sentences are marked with an asterisk)and these are nouns that could make sense with a Why relative pronoun;try it, if you dare, with nouns that couldn't, like rock, salamander, or durability.Relative why can be freely substituted with that, like any restrictive relative marker.I.e., substituting that for why in the sentences above produces exactly the same pattern of grammaticality and ungrammaticality:the reason that he did it\*the cause that he did it\*the intention that he did it\*the effect that he did it\*the thing that he did it\*More important, why refers to an adverbial clause or phrase of some sort in the relative clause -- certainly not a noun phrase -- and therefore it can't possibly be the subject of the clause. This is important because relative pronouns that are the subject of their relative clause (like the man who/that came to dinner) cannot be deleted. But adverbial wh-words -- like why, where, when, and sometimes how -- can't ever fall into that category.This means why -- or that -- can be freely deleted after reason. I.e., deleting why in the sentences above also produces exactly the same pattern of grammaticality and ungrammaticality.It's not a matter of redundancy: all pronouns are redundant, after all.It's just that why is very limited in its distribution.Not quite as limited as how, however.How can't be used at all as a relative pronoun;one may use that, or nothing at all, but how (which refers to way) is ungrammatical as a relative marker:the way that he did it/the way he did it\*the way how he did it\*From Wikipedia. Columbus encountered the pineapple in 1493 on the Leeward island of Guadeloupe. He called it pia de Indes, meaning "pine of the Indians", and brought it back with him to Europe, thus making the pineapple the first bromeliad to leave the New World. (Actually, this probably isn't quite right... since pia also means pinecone in Spanish, and since pineapples look nothing like pine trees but quite a bit like pinecones, the meaning was undoubtedly "pinecone of the Indians".) The question is: why did the English adapt the name pineapple from Spanish (which originally meant pinecone in English) while most European countries eventually adapted the name ananas, which came from the Tupi word nanas (also meaning pineapple). This is pure speculation, but it may have to do with the fact that there were English colonies in the New World, and these had lots of trade with the Caribbean. If the fruit was called by one name in the Caribbean and a different name in Spain, the English could easily have ended up using the Caribbean name, while the rest of Europe used the Spanish name. As usual, the best way to determine if something is generally grammatical is to ask whether it's used in reputable publications. The answer to that question here is a resounding YES.The TIME magazine corpus yields 70 hits.Oil, gas and coal leases on federal land require a 12.5% grossroyalty, but hard-rock mining pays nothing to the U.S., and asuitability review is an airy dream. Which is why mining-industrymoney has watered the grass roots of pro-development "wise use "(Mother Lode Vs. Mother Nature, John Skow, 1993)Critics of Clinton will undoubtedly say that a President with flexiblebeliefs, who once polled voters to decide where he should go onvacation, deserves history's inattention. Which is why with theend of his presidency in sight and the realization that a lame duck'sinfluence drops precipitously after his sixth year, Clinton and hisadvisers are feeling the shadow of Reagan and urgently pondering thequestion, What is Clintonism? (Clinton's Last Campaign; KAREN TUMULTYAND JAY BRANEGAN; 1998)Like any Yankee or Marlin, you want to shake the stiffness of winterout of your carcass and bound into spring like a line drive. Whichis why following a spring-training regimen of muscle-stretching andflexibility exercises can be so important. (Get Spring In YourTraining; TIM PADGETT; 2006)COHA (Corpus of Historical American English) yields 400+ hits;THERE is a widespread conviction that Bishop William Montgomery Brownreally is a heretic. But there is another widespread conviction thatheresy hasn't hurt him any, which is why he stays in the headlineseven after his case has been "finally closed". If heresy had brokenout on the old man, or soured his soul or spoiled his looks, thereporters would have noticed it long before this. (New Yorker, 1926)A good male haircut, it seems, should be a secret that no one's in onexcept man and his barber. Which is why, as soon as he sits downin the barber chair, he usually warns the barber, "Now go easy? nottoo short!" (Good Housekeeping, 1946)We're all part of one great machine. So I feel a little ahead of a lotof people who don't see that yet. Which is why on Sunday morning Ileave my pajamas on the bathroom floor and sit on the toilet lidpolishing my low shoes with spit and bits of toilet paper. (Harpers,1968)Pluralism in Nicaragua would not only be good for Nicaragua, it wouldbe good for all of Central America. It would be the only reliableguarantor of nonintervention. Which is why the proposal made by agroup of Nicaraguan rebel leaders meeting in early December withSpecial Envoy Richard Stone in Panama is a good one. (The NewRepublic, 1983)There are, in fact, so many options that the beginner may have troubleselecting the best process for the job at hand. Which is why weselected three different types of home blues for step-by-stepdemonstrations. (Outdoor Life, 1995)They create a place -- neither esthetic heaven nor didactic classroom-- where we can begin to experience another way of being human. Which is why we go to the museum in the first place. (NYT, 1996)This evening the display is washed out and unimpressive, the sunveiled by tight-knotted clouds. The crowd is sparse and mumbly withdisappointment. Which is why he's not surprised to find Babsthere. He spots her with her chest pressed against the steel railing,breasts spilling down like batter overrunning a pan. (Southern Review,2002)The British National Corpus yields 106 hits.Many of the symptoms shown by food-intolerant and chemical-sensitivepatients are symptoms that we all suffer from at times -- headaches,tiredness and indigestion for example. Which is why some doctorsfeel that such patients are "not really ill", simply over-reacting toeveryday symptoms. (The complete guide to food allergy andintolerance. Gamlin, Linda and Brostoff, Jonathan; 1999)Orchestral players themselves don't necessarily lead the healthiestlives! And yet they are under enormous stress when they are doingtheir best work. An orchestral player works as hard as a navy.Which is why I have always tried to insist that my players have proper ways of relaxing away from their work. (Conversations withKarajan. Osborne, Richard. Oxford: 1991)Price-resistance, payment problems, piracy -- in many parts of theworld, no matter how great the aspirations of the local population,plans to supply demand can rapidly turn from opportunity to threat.Which is why so often the thoughts of publishers return to Europe, by which is generally meant the mature markets of southern Europe,Greece, Spain and Italy. (Bookseller. London: J Whitaker & sons, 1993)The iWeb corpus yields 16501 hits.It is quite clearly an accepted way to start a sentence in English, and thus grammatical. Any explanation as to why is secondary to the fact that it is in common use in respected publications. "why" can be compared to an old Latin form qui, an ablative form, meaning how. Today "why" is used as a question word to ask the reason or purpose of something. This use might be explained from a formula such as "How does it come that ...". If you meet an old friend of yours, whom you never expected to meet in town, you can express your surprise by saying: Why, it's Jim! This why in the meaning of "how", in Latin qui, can be explained as rest of a whole sentence: How is it possible? It's Jim, whom I never expected to see again! This is my personal view of the matter. I don't suppose that everybody will agree.

**Why is my hoover shampooer not picking up water. Why is my hoover carpet cleaner not spraying water. Carpet cleaner not dispensing water. Hoover vacuum stopped working. Why is my hoover smartwash not dispensing water. Why isn't my hoover carpet cleaner won't suction. Hoover carpet cleaner not picking up water. Hoover carpet cleaner will not dispense water.**

- dofele
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