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What is the difference between these two sentences: 1) Please tell me why it is like that. (should I put question mark at the end) 2) Please tell me why it is like that. (should I put question mark at the end) 0 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. 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% gross royalty, but hard-rock mining pays nothing to the U.S., and a suitability review is an airy dream. Which is why mining-industry money 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 flexible beliefs, who once polled voters to decide where he should go on vacation, deserves history's inattention. Which is why with the end of his presidency in sight and the realization that a lame duck's influence drops precipitously after his sixth year, Clinton and his advisers are feeling the shadow of Reagan and urgently pondering the question, What is Clintonism? (Clinton's Last Campaign; KAREN TUMULTY AND JAY BRANEGAN; 1998) Like any Yankee or Marlin, you want to shake the stiffness of winter out of your carcass and bound into spring like a line drive. Which is why following a spring-training regimen of muscle-stretching and flexibility exercises can be so important. (Get Spring In Your Training; TIM PADGETT; 2006) COHA (Corpus of Historical American English) yields 400+ hits. THERE is a widespread conviction that Bishop William Montgomery Brown really is a heretic. But there is another widespread conviction that heresy hasn't hurt him any. Which is why he stays in the headlines even after his case has been " finally closed ". If heresy had broken out on the old man, or soured his soul or spoiled his looks, the reporters 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 on except man and his barber. Which is why, as soon as he sits down in the barber chair, he usually warns the barber, " Now go easy? not too short!" (Good Housekeeping, 1946) We're all part of one great machine. So I feel a little ahead of a lot of people who don't see that yet. Which is why on Sunday morning I leave my pajamas on the bathroom floor and sit on the toilet lid polishing my low shoes with spit and bits of toilet paper. (Harpers, 1968) Pluralism in Nicaragua would not only be good for Nicaragua, it would be good for all of Central America. It would be the only reliable guarantor of nonintervention. Which is why the proposal made by a group of Nicaraguan rebel leaders meeting in early December with Special Envoy Richard Stone in Panama is a good one. (The New Republic, 1983) There are, in fact, so many options that the beginner may have trouble selecting the best process for the job at hand. Which is why we selected three different types of home blues for step-by-step demonstrations. (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 sun veiled by tight-knotted clouds. The crowd is sparse and mumbly with disappointment. Which is why he's not surprised to find Babs there. 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-sensitive patients are symptoms that we all suffer from at times -- headaches, tiredness and indigestion for example. Which is why some doctors feel that such patients are' not really ill', simply over-reacting to everyday symptoms. (The complete guide to food allergy and intolerance. Gamlin, Linda and Brostoff, Jonathan; 1989) Orchestral players themselves don't necessarily lead the healthiest lives! And yet they are under enormous stress when they are doing their 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 with Karajan. Osborne, Richard. Oxford; 1991) Price-resistance, payment problems, piracy -- in many parts of the world, 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. 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. If you go to Open Library, a search will turn up 52,223 interrogatives (questions) that begin with "Why cannot" in published English literature and there are over 2 million examples of interrogatives that begin with "Why cannot" on the internet. Looking at a specific example, "Why cannot we" turns up with 758,000 interrogatives (and 8,064 examples in published literature). There are also many examples of "Why we cannot", but they are not interrogatives. JForrest explains that 'cannot' is the negative form of 'can', and so 'cannot' should be placed in the same location as 'can' would be in a sentence. Since we can say "Why can we grow taller?" , "Why cannot we grow taller?" is a logical and properly written negative. We don't say "Why we can grow taller?" so the construct should not be "Why we cannot grow taller?" The reason is that auxiliaries should come before the subject to make an interrogative. I argue that the "Why cannot" usage is acceptable because of that rule mentioned by Shinji, above, that "you can place one and only one auxiliary before the subject in an interrogative phrase". Thus, "Why cannot" is acceptable though "Why can not" is not. I admit that some people argue that the contraction "can't" should be used instead in this case. That option is quite popular -- there are 16.6 million examples of can't on google and 90,470 in published literature. It is much easier to type can't, and easier to speak it as well. Contractions generally aren't considered ideal for formal writing, however. Another alternative that is growing in popularity is the construction "Why can we not" which sees 1.2 million uses online, 9,900 in publication. 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 Purdy'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. "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. From Wikipedia, Columbus encountered the pineapple in 1493 on the Leeward island of Guadeloupe. He called it piña 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 piña 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. 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. 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 Pilipino is Repùblika ng Pilipinas. The Pilipino 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.

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