# Explanations

An “Explanation” is “understanding-oriented”.

Explanation clarifies, deepens and broadens the reader’s understanding of a subject, it clarifies and illuminates a particular topic.

# When to use an Explanation

## Use an Explanation when…

* You want to provide a historical timeline to any reader;
* You want to give background information and context to explain why things work the way they do;
* You want to include connections, even to things outside the immediate topic, to add clarity and context;
* You want to consider and weigh up contrary opinions to eventually evolve the topic into an ADR;

## Don’t use an Explanation when…

* You want to guide, instruct or include reference information;
* You want to log the changes made to the system.

How Explanations are different from other types?

* *explanation* is concerned with **theoretical knowledge,** compared to practical skills with *tutorials* and *howto guides;*
* *explanation* is **most useful when studying**, rather than actually working in case of *how-to guides* and *references.*

# Resources

<https://diataxis.fr/explanation/>  
<https://documentation.divio.com/explanation/>  
[https://junction-box.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Document-Framework/diataxis-discussions.html](https://junction-box.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Document-Framework/diataxis-discussions.html#diataxis-discussions)

<https://github.com/quarkusio/quarkus/blob/main/docs/src/main/asciidoc/_templates/template-concept.adoc>