

Structures with why

This structure is used to suggest something for other people's consideration and acceptance. It is a more direct way of making a suggestion.

Why not buy now and pay later?

Why not suspend that guy?

Why not punish that boy?

Why not hire a more competent person?

Why not ask him?

Why not consult a specialist?

Why not throw a party in his honour?

Why not buy a new car?

Why not change jobs?

Why not file a police complaint against him?

Note that in this structure we cannot use a pronoun after why not?

Why not get that car serviced? (NOT Why not we get that car serviced?)

The same idea can be expressed using the structure 'why don't we?'

Why don't you suspend that guy?

Why don't you hire a more competent person?

Why don't you ask him?

Why don't you consult a specialist?

Why don't you buy a new car?

Why don't you find another job?

Why don't you start dieting?

Why don't we make another attempt?

Why don't we ask him?

Why in replies

In short replies to negative statements, we usually use 'Why not?' In replies to affirmative statements, we usually use 'Why?'

Structures with why

'She has decided to call off her wedding to Peter.' 'Why?'

'She isn't coming with us?' 'Why not?'

'We can't depend on him.' 'Why not?'

The structure 'Why should' can be used to suggest surprise or anger.

I don't understand why she should hate me.

I don't see why I should pay for your drinks.