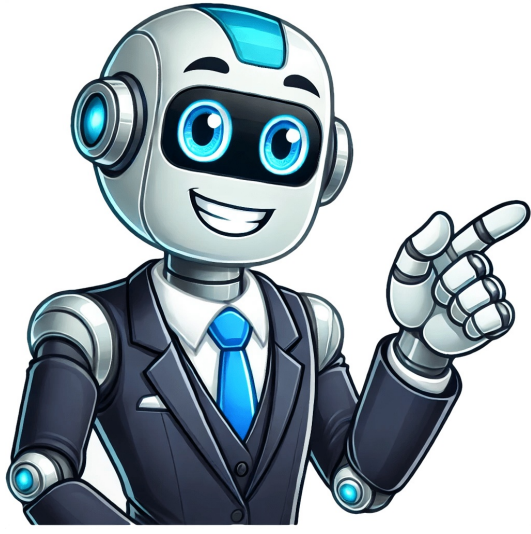


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Can you shed any light on this

All rights reserved. “The researchers were hoping that the new technology would be able to shed some light on precisely when the artifacts had been made.” “My siblings and I took the bus to Richmond on Friday in order to meet my father. The phrase traces its origins to the metaphorical use of light as a symbol of knowledge or understanding. Use “shed some light” in a sentence when you want to ask for clarification on a topic or situation, show that you received clarification about a topic or situation, or discuss how a topic or situation was clarified. If something sheds light on a situation, it makes it easier to understand. Can people use the phrase in written communication? If you're shedding some light on a topic, you're providing more information or explanation about it. ◇ ‘Can you throw any light on the matter?’See also: cast, light, on, shed, something, throwFarlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017To explain or clarify. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Can one use the phrase in a scientific context? Her goal is to help everyone, whether native English speaker or not, learn how to write and speak with perfect English. Was he able to shed some light on the major changes he’s been hinting at for months now?” “He felt frustrated that Sarah seemed to want to just flip a coin to make the decision and get it over with. In the fifteenth century light came to be used figuratively for “understanding.” George J. Could you shed some light on the situation? Key aspects of the idiom’s meaning include: Provides clarity or understanding Associated with revealing information or explanation It can be used in a variety of contexts, from casual conversation to academic discourse Where Does “Shed Some Light On” Come From? Key aspects of the phrase: Represents the act of providing clarification or additional information Indicates a process of understanding through further explanation It has a neutral connotation and is suitable for various contexts Remember that the idiom expresses your intention to clarify a subject or your request for further information. Link to this page: shed light on something (redirected from shed some light on) To reveal information or details about something; to clarify or help people understand something. I’m a bit confused. To “shed a new light” on something, means that some additional piece of information that has been presented on a topic or situation completely changes the way that you were thinking about or approaching that topic or situation before the information was received. If you turned on a lamp– therefore ‘shedding some light on’ the book– it would be much easier to see and read the book. Yes, it can be used in both informal and formal written communication, such as emails, academic papers, and articles. Another way to explain its meaning would be to use the phrases “to illuminate,” “to clear up,” “to sort out,” “to straighten out,” or “to make understood.” You might use this phrase if there is a subject that you are trying to understand but are struggling with it. Yes, the phrase is not context-specific and can be used by anyone in any situation that requires clarification or explanation. The phrase “shed some light” is used when referring to a confusing topic or a situation. The documentary shed some light on the environmental issues affecting our planet. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.Also, throw light on. What does it mean when someone says they need you to ‘shed some light on’ a topic? © 2024 Farlex, Inc. all rights reserved. As you can see from the example sentences, the topic or situation became (or would become) clearer after the light was shone on it. (Also with any.) This discussion has shed some light on the problem. If you were in the dark and trying to read a book, for example, it would be very difficult to see the words on the pages. Adler used the expression in his translation of Fauriel’s History of Provençal Poetry (1860): “On these antecedents that I shall first endeavor to shed some light.”See also: light, shed, toThe Dictionary of Clichés by Christine Ammer Copyright © 2013 by Christine AmmerSee also: Want to thank TFD for its existence? I’m game for this new project, but could you shed some light on our overall strategy? and throw (some) light on somethingFig. In short: ‘Shed some light on’ means to provide clarification or additional information that helps to illuminate or make sense of a situation or concept. It means that someone is going to provide (shed) some additional information (some light) on that topic or situation to make it more easily understood or less confusing. Thus, it is highly applicable in contexts that involve explanation, learning, or problem-solving. Can strangers use the phrase “shed some light on”? The more popular phrase of the two is by far “shed some light” as shone by the Google Ngram Viewer below. The core meaning of clarifying or illuminating something complex or obscure has remained unchanged. I really hope that the neighborhood meeting on Sunday will shine some light on why so many mailboxes have been vandalized lately. I’ve been on tenterhooks about the examination results; could you shed some light on when they’ll be released? How can I use “shed some light on” in a sentence? and from electrical devices, and that allows things to be seen” or “ a piece of equipment that produces light, such as a lamp or a bulb.” As you can see, neither of these definitions would make literal sense in this expression, since as you will learn in the examples, there is no actual light involved. Where does this phrase come from? It was his perspective that they needed to do thorough research to shed some light on their options.” “If someone isn’t able to shed some light on why we’ve been losing money the last few weeks, we’re really going to be up the river without a paddle.” Other Ways to Say ‘Shed Some Light On’ What are other words and phrases that convey a similar message as ‘shed some light on’? Let’s look at an example of a phrase that uses “shine some light” but where “shed some light” could be used in its place instead. In fact, “shine some light” was practically not used at all throughout history and only recently had some slight usage. During the interview, the celebrity shed some light on her personal life. If you are with someone that is more knowledgeable than you on the topic, you might say, “can you ‘shed some light on’ this for me?” Similarly, if someone was going to explain something complex to you, they might say, “let me ‘shed some light on’ this for you.” Where Does ‘Shed Some Light On’ Come From? What Does ‘Shed Some Light On’ Mean? I thought he might be able to shed some light on a number of questions we had about our childhood.” “I know that you’re distraught, but lying in bed all day isn’t going to shed any light on the situation.” “You’ve been sulking around for days. Another source states that the use of the phrase ‘shed light on’ emerged in the fourteenth century in the literal sense of illuminating something by ‘shedding some light on’ it. For example, The Cambridge Dictionary defines “light” as “the brightness that comes from the sun, fire, etc. Some examples include: “We need to shed some light on our arms deals,” is a quote from Richard Ireland’s “Perpetual Light.” “This book represented my humble attempt to shed some light on the difficult problem of racial injustice which pervades our nation,” is a quote from Wolfgang Mieder’s “Making a Way Out of No Way.” Other/Different Ways to Say “Shed Some Light On” Several alternative expressions convey a similar meaning to “shed some light on.” Some of these include: Clarify Elucidate Explain Enlighten Illuminate You can use these alternatives interchangeably depending on the context and the level of clarification or explanation required. “Shed some light on” means to clarify or provide additional information that helps to understand a situation or concept. Historical Example “There was no one who answered, and Blogue then struck a fusee, and burnt up a ‘Bradshaw,’ in order to shed some light on the obscure and complicated situation in which he found himself.” -London Society An Illustrated Magazine, 1869 10 Examples of “Shed Some Light On” in Sentences Here are some examples of using the idiom in sentences: Can you shed some light on this problem and sound me out on my proposed solution? to reveal something about something; to clarify something. This term was used literally, in the sense of illuminating something, from the fourteenth century. We’ve hired a private investigator to help shed light on the clandestine dealings of the organization. These documents we’ve uncovered shed some light on how the late author’s final book was meant to end.See also: light, on, shedFarlex Dictionary of Idioms. When you think about it, it actually makes a lot of sense. © HarperCollins Publishers 2012 make a problem, etc. ‘Shed light on’ appears to become more commonly used around 1830 and started to increase noticeably in the first half of the 20th century. After reading the book, it shed some light on the historical event for me. Copyright © 2003, 1997 by The Christine Ammer 1992 Trust. It isn’t entirely known when the phrase ‘shed some light on’ first appeared, but it is known that it predates the invention of electricity. Final Thoughts About “Shed Some Light On” To wrap it up, the idiom “shed some light on” is a useful phrase in both informal and formal contexts, indicating the act of providing clarity or further explanation about a situation or concept. 10 Frequently Asked Questions About “Shed Some Light On” What does “shed some light on” mean? Is it okay to use the phrase to express understanding? Examples of “Shed Some Light On” in Pop Culture The phrase “shed some light on” often appears in media that involve explanations, revelations, or unveiling of information, such as detective shows, news reports, and documentaries. If a person says that they are going to ‘shed some light’ on a topic, it means that they are going to share information about that topic to make it more clear. How has the usage and meaning of the idiom evolved over time? The idiom ‘shed some light on’ is used to explain the process of providing further information on a particular subject or expanding one’s understanding of something. Where does the idiom ‘shed some light on’ come from? The idiom “shed some light” originated in Europe sometime before the invention of electricity. What Does ‘Shed Some Light On’ Mean? There are various other ways to express the concept implied by the phrase “shed some light.” Some of the more popular words and phrases that mean the same thing include: Provide/Provided insightGive/Gave an explanationGive/Gave a sense ofMake/Made clearProvide/Provided a clueGive/Gave an idea Clarify or explain, as in I was hoping the professor would shed light on how he arrived at his theory, or Can anyone throw some light on where these plants came from? ◇ ‘Can you throw any light on the matter?’See also: cast, light, on, shed, something, throwFarlex Partner Idioms Dictionary © Farlex 2017See also: Want to thank TFD for its existence? Let’s look at some examples of phrases where this idiom is appropriate. By the fifteenth century, the word “light” started being used figuratively in order to mean “understanding.” The phrase can be found in George J. Let’s see if Ann can throw any light on this question.See also: light, on, shedMcGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs. Yes, it is frequently used in scientific contexts, particularly when discussing the revelation or explanation of new findings or concepts. When used idiomatically, the phrases “shed some light” and “shine some light” mean the same thing and can be used interchangeably. Is there anything that Moira said that might shed some light on what happened? The phrase “shed some light” cannot be used in the same literal sense as “shine some light” and can only be used in the everyday vernacular way discussed here. When someone says they’re going to ‘shed some light on’ something, it means that they’re going to make it clear, provide an explanation, or offer information that helps to create further understanding. You can use it when you want to ask for clarification or when you are providing further information or explanation about something. I finally decided to talk to her best friend to see if she could shed some light on the situation.The results from the tests that the doctor ran finally shed some light on why I’ve been feeling so tired and weary all of the time.The book was written by the author in such a realistic and informative way that it shed some light on the problems that many people were facing during that time period. Here we discuss the phrase “shed some light” and provide an explanation and clarification for when it should be used. Link to this page: shed (some) light on (something) The idiom “shed some light” is used often in conversational English and as with many other idiomatic phrases, it is one that can be difficult for some audiences to interpret. (redirected from to shed some light on this) To reveal information or details about something; to clarify or help people understand something. However, “shine some light” can have another additional meaning and be used in a literal way as well to mean that an actual light is being shone somewhere. Here are some synonymous terms you might consider using instead: Enlighten Illuminate Clear up Spell out Elucidate Sort out Straighten out Throw light on Demystify Explain Clarify Give insight into Cast light on Get to the bottom of We hope that this article helped to ‘shed some light on’ the meaning of this common phrase! If you’re ready to learn more idiomatic expressions in English, make sure you check out our idioms blog. Let’s look at some examples: After the firefighters had completed their investigation, it shed a new light on how the house fire started. Note: Cast or throw are sometimes used instead of shed. The term was used literally, in the sense of illuminating something, from the fourteenth century. The idiom “shed some light on” conveys the action of making a situation or information clear or easier to understand. Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster’s page for free fun content. However, the topics or subjects that we shed light on have evolved with the times. Would you please just spill the tea and shed some light on what’s been bothering you so much recently?” “I’m glad to hear that your conversation with the boss went well. Yes, it can be used to convey understanding, particularly after further information or explanation has been provided. Link to this page: shed (some) light on (something) The phrase “shed some light on” signifies explaining or clarifying something that was previously unclear or confusing. So it is most certainly the one that you will hear more often. Examples of ‘Shed Some Light On’ In Sentences How would you use the idiom ‘shed some light on’ in a sentence? She is passionate about reading, writing, and the written word. easier to understand: This book sheds new light on the role of the CIA. Now, let’s look at an example of where “shine some light” is used literally and cannot be replaced by “shed some light.” Can you use the flashlight to shine some light under the couch while I look for the lost remote control? Originally, from about 1200, these expressions were used literally, in the sense of “illuminate,” but they soon were used figuratively as well. ‘Shed some light on’ is an idiom that is commonly used in everyday speech. What’s the difference between “shed some light on” and “clarify”? For example, today we commonly use it in reference to explaining modern concepts like technologies, scientific discoveries, social issues, or digital communications that people in the 1500s would not have discussed. To reveal information or details about something; to clarify or help people understand something. Previously, everyone had assumed that it was caused by lightning.When Maria’s boyfriend unexpectedly proposed to her, it shed a new light on their relationship because none of us thought that they were planning to be together in the long term. ‘Shed some light on’ similarly increased in usage in the early 1900s but isn’t quite as common as the shorter version of the phrase. People could understand why Emily was upset, the patient could understand why they were not feeling well, and the readers could understand better the problems of a particular time period. Sophia Merton is one of the lead freelance writers for WritingTips.org. This expression can be one of the more difficult idiomatic phrases to figure out because if you look up the definitions of each of the words in a dictionary and put them together, they will not really help the phrase to make any more sense. Some synonyms for “shed” when used in this idiom include cast, throw, and spread. Once you understand the situation, please ping me and shed some light on our next steps. This is a commonly used phrase in everyday speech in order to indicate that further investigation or clarification is needed or about to be presented on a topic. See also: light, on, shedThe American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms by Christine Ammer. Back when people used to use candles and other non-electric means of creating light, the act of lighting a candle to illuminate spaces in their home became known as ‘shedding light.’ According to one source, the use of the verb ‘shed’ in reference to light dates back to around the year 1200. After we parse out this data, we can shed some light on the trends impacting our sales. It’s frequently used in contexts requiring elucidation or the revealing of information. No one could understand why Emily was so upset at work all week. What is a synonym for the verb “shed” as used in this phrase? It is slightly different from “shed some light” because it implies not just a clarification of something, but a whole new way of looking at or approaching the topic or situation. His experiences shed some light on the realities of living in a war-torn country. In the fifteenth century, light came to be used figuratively for “understanding.” The phrase is used to explain or clarify something. Let’s look at some examples. Sophia received her BA from Vassar College. While both phrases indicate making something clear, “shed some light on” often implies providing additional, previously unknown or not considered information. Adler’s translation of Fauriel’s History of Provençal Poetry from 1860 in the following line: “On these antecedents that I shall first endeavor to shed some light.” Using the Google Books Ngram Viewer, we see that the phrase ‘shed light on’ is more commonly used than ‘shed some light on,’ but both of them have relatively similar trajectories on the graph of usage since 1800. Perhaps the brothers could cast light on that mystery.See also: light, on, shed, somethingCollins COBUILD Idioms Dictionary, 3rd ed.

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