



Selvittää

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Abbreviations – käytetyt lyhenteet

sb = somebody

sth = something

fig. = figuratively

NB. The verbs are given by translation preference.

Verb	Example	Definition
to ascertain (selvittää; varmistaa)	A postmortem was ordered to try to ascertain the cause of death. Tests were conducted to ascertain whether pollution levels have dropped.	to find out for certain, to verify sth
to find out (selvittää; saada selville)	Did you find out whether there are any seats left?	to get information, after trying to discover it or by chance
to determine (määrätä; ratkaista)	The investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire.	to find out the facts about sth
to clarify (tehdä selväksi asia, joka on epäselvä; selventää)	The report aims to clarify how these conclusions were reached. I hope this clarifies my position.	to make sth clearer or easier to understand



Verb	Example	Definition
to explain (selvittää; selittää)	Our lawyer carefully explained the procedure.	to tell sb about sth in a way that is clear or easy
to look into (selvittää; tutkia)	Police are looking into the disappearance of two children. A working group has been set up to look into the problem.	to try to find out the truth about a problem, crime etc. in order to solve it
to elucidate (selvittää; selventää, valaista)	She collected ay evidence which might help her to elucidate the problem.	to make sth clearer by explaining it more fully
to establish (selvittää; todeta; varmistaa)	The police must establish the facts of the case before proceeding. I was never able to establish whether she was telling the truth.	to find out facts that will prove that something is true
to account for (selvittää; selittää)	Can you account for your movements on that night? Many of the scientist's findings in the tests simply cannot be accounted for .	to give an explanation of why sth has happened or why you did sth
to shed light on (selvittää; tuoda lisävalaistusta asiaan)	Recent research has shed light on the causes of the disease.	to make sth easier to understand by providing new or better information



Verb	Example	Definition
to illuminate (selvittää; valaista)	This text illuminates the philosopher's early thinking.	to make sth clearer or easier to understand
to investigate (selvittää; tutkia)	An outbreak of food poisoning is being investigated by health officials.	to look/go into sth in order to find out more about it, e.g. crime, accident, a situation
to clear sth up (selvittää sotku, epäselvyys)	There are a couple of points we need to clear up before the meeting begins.	to explain or solve sth, or to make it easier to understand; to solve a misunderstanding
to settle (a dispute) (selvittää riita-asia esim. oikeisistuimessa)	The case was settled out of court. Negotiators settled the dispute.	to adjust differences or end controversy; to determine an issue or come to a conclusion (often in legal contexts)
to identify (selvittää, tunnistaa, löytää syy jhkn)	They are trying to identify what is wrong with the present system. They have now identified the cause of the disease.	to find out exactly what the cause/origin is
to discover (selvittää taustat, syy; saada selville)	The truth was soon discovered .	to succeed in finding out information that is difficult to find
to clear the air (fig.) (selvittää, puhdistaa ilmaa)	Some people say a good fight is the best way to clear the air .	to improve a difficult or tense situation by talking about worries, doubts etc.



Verb	Example	Definition
to clear, to clear up (puhdistaa ilmaa; sää selkenee)	Thunder clears the air. When it clears up , we can go for a walk.	if the weather, sky, mist, etc. clears, it becomes better and there is more sun

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