

## Explain Errors with the Visual Studio Code Integration

Use the OverflowAI Visual Studio Code Integration to explain errors in your code.

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Applies to: [Free](#) [Basic](#) [Business](#) [Enterprise](#)

This documentation is for **Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise**. Free, Basic, and Business users can access their documentation [here](#). [Find your plan](#).

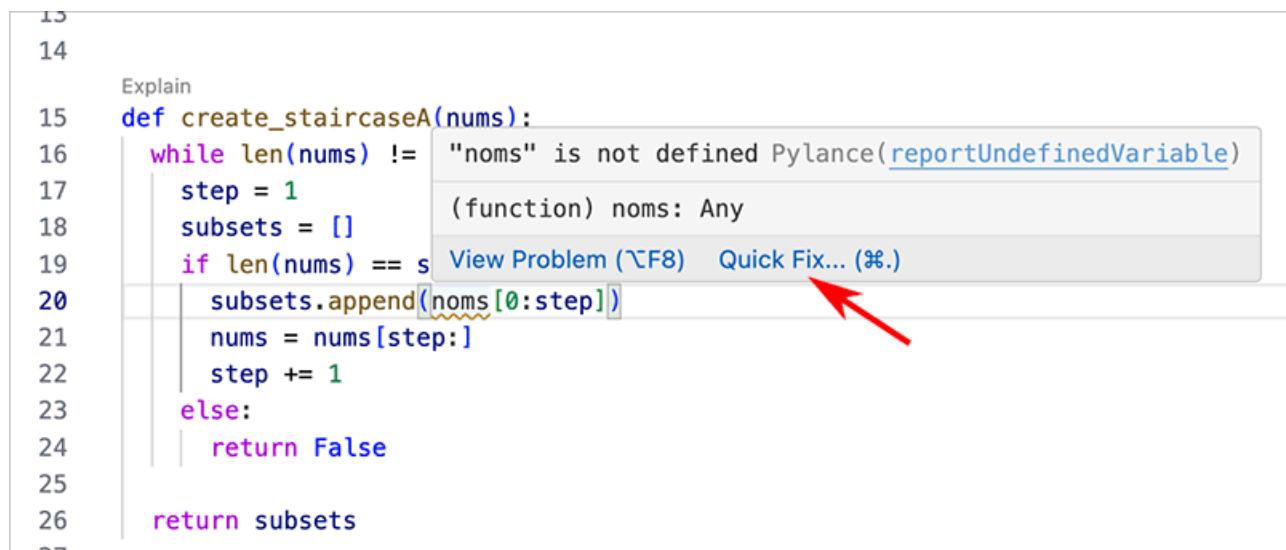
## Overview

The Explain Error feature of the Stack Overflow Visual Studio Code (VSC) extension searches the vast resources of the Stack Overflow public site ([www.stackoverflow.com](https://www.stackoverflow.com)) to help you understand and fix errors in your code. This feature leverages many technologies to help you troubleshoot problems: code analysis, intelligent query generation, Stack Overflow's API, language processing, machine learning models, IDE integration, and more.

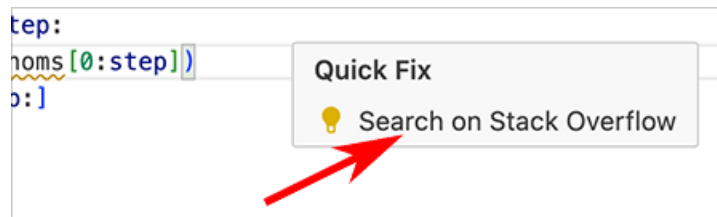
**NOTE:** Before you can use the OverflowAI Explain Error feature, you must first install the Stack Overflow for Teams Visual Studio Code extension by following [these instructions](#). Your Stack Overflow site must also have [Unified Search](#) enabled.

## The Explain Error feature

VSC underlines code errors with a wavy red line. When you hover your mouse over an underlined error, VSC displays a pop-up window. To use the Explain Error feature, click **Quick Fix**.



In the Quick Fix box, click **Search on Stack Overflow**.



There are two additional ways you can access the Explain Error feature in VSC:

- Click the **yellow light bulb** in the line with the error, then click **Search on Stack Overflow**.
- With your cursor in the line with the error, press **OPTION-.** or **CTRL-.** (period) on your keyboard to perform a VSC Quick Action. Click **Search on Stack Overflow**.

After you click **Search on Stack Overflow**, the feature will search the Stack Overflow public site for relevant discussions, answers, and explanations related to the error. You'll see the results in the side panel or a pop-up window within VSC.

A screenshot of the 'Explain the following error message' panel in VS Code. The error message is '"nums" is not defined'. The panel shows a search result from Stack Overflow titled 'What does the error message "nums" is not defined mean?'. The explanation states that the error means there is a reference to the variable 'nums' but it has not been defined or declared before it is used. Below the explanation are two sources: 'Brian Quinion's answer' and 'shirleyquirk's answer'. At the bottom, there is a chat box with the placeholder text 'What would you like to know?' and radio buttons for 'All', 'My Team', and 'Stack Overflow'. To the right of the panel, a snippet of Python code is visible, showing a function 'create' with a 'while' loop and a 'subset' variable.

You can then use the chat box to ask additional questions related to the code error response. Make sure the search selection is set to **Stack Overflow**, and type in your follow-up question. For example:

- Expand on that explanation.
- How do I fix this error?

If the result of your AI search is an answer that will benefit your community, the Draft Article feature makes it easy to create a new Stack Overflow for Teams article based on the conversation ([learn more](#)).

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If you need further support or have questions, contact your site administrator.