

Cleft Sentences

It was X who/that... and What X is...

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

It-cleft: It was X who/that... Wh-cleft: What X does is...

1 It-cleft or wh-cleft?

EASY

Choose the correct cleft type.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. JOHN called me. (emphasise subject) | 2. I need TIME. (emphasise object) |
| 3. She left b/c NOISE. (emphasise reason) | 4. I want you to LISTEN. (emphasise action) |
| 5. She forgot to lock door. | 6. He told HER, not me. |
| 7. IN 1969 they landed on moon. | 8. I find her HONESTY impressive. |
| 9. NOISE woke me up. | 10. She wants to TRAVEL the world. |

2 Complete the cleft sentence

MEDIUM

Fill in the missing part.

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|--|--|
| 1. It was the director ____ made the decision. | 2. What surprised me most ____ her reaction. |
| 3. It ____ the salary that attracted her. | 4. What we need ____ a complete overhaul. |
| 5. It was ____ Paris that they fell in love. | 6. What ____ me most was his indifference. |
| 7. It was ____ that caused the accident. | 8. What the company ____ is better comms. |
| 9. It ____ until I read it that I understood. | 10. What she ____ do was call the police. |

3 Clefts in context

HARD

Choose the most natural cleft sentence.

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|--|--|
| 1. They wanted to COMMUNICATE better. | 2. The CEO signed the letter: nobody else. |
| 3. It wasn't until she apologised it improved. | 4. The SOLUTION is what we're missing. |
| 5. He sent message to HER, not me. | 6. She finally RESIGNED. |
| 7. REPORT changed her mind. | 8. He makes me feel UNDERSTOOD. |
| 9. IN THE LIBRARY they found manuscript. | 10. We need you to COMMIT. |

4

Write the cleft sentence

HARD

Rewrite cleft sentence (lowercase).

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|--|---|
| 1. John broke the window. (it-cleft: John) | 2. I need more support. (wh-cleft) |
| 3. She solved it by staying calm. (it-cleft) | 4. They need to update software. (wh-cleft) |
| 5. He realised in 2019. (it-cleft: 2019) | 6. She didn't understand until she read it. |
| 7. Budget cuts caused delay. (wh-cleft) | 8. He wants to be taken seriously. (wh-cleft) |
| 9. I first met her in Vienna. (it-cleft) | 10. Her dedication impressed us. (wh-cleft) |

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Cleft types

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 It was John who called me | 6 It was her that he told |
| 2 What I need is time | 7 It was in 1969 that they landed |
| 3 It was because of the noise that she left | 8 What I find most impressive is her honesty |
| 4 What I want is for you to listen | 9 It was the noise that woke me up |
| 5 What she did was forget to lock the door | 10 What she really wants is to travel |

2 Exercise 2 Missing parts

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1 who | 6 shocked |
| 2 was | 7 his speeding |
| 3 was not | 8 lacks |
| 4 is | 9 wasn't |
| 5 in | 10 did |

3 Exercise 3 Natural cleft sentences

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 What they wanted was to communicate better | 6 What she finally did was resign |
| 2 It was the CEO who signed the letter | 7 Both are correct |
| 3 It was not until she apologised that things improved | 8 What I appreciate is that he makes me feel understood |
| 4 What we are missing is a solution | 9 It was in the library that they found it |
| 5 It was to her that he sent the message | 10 What we need is for you to commit |

4 Exercise 4 Written cleft sentences

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 it was john who broke the window | 6 it wasn't until she read the contract that she understood |
| 2 what i need is more support | 7 what caused the delay was the budget cuts |
| 3 it was by staying calm that she solved the problem | 8 what he wants is to be taken seriously |
| 4 what they really need to do is update the software | 9 it was in vienna that i first met her |
| 5 it was in 2019 that he realised his mistake | 10 what impressed us the most was her dedication |