

Fronting and Emphasis

Fronting, it-clefts, pseudo-clefts for emphasis

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Fronting moves elements first; clefts split sentences for focus.

1 It-Cleft Sentences

EASY

Choose the correct it-cleft form.

Word bank: It was / It is

1. ____ John who called me.

2. ____ her honesty I admire most.

3. ____ London they met first.

4. ____ 1969 that they landed.

5. ____ new approach that worked.

6. ____ Ann who won the prize.

7. ____ money she wanted, not fame.

8. ____ his speech that moved us.

9. ____ my boss who told me.

10. ____ here that it all started.

2 Pseudo-Cleft (What-Cleft)

MEDIUM

Complete the pseudo-cleft sentence.

Word bank: What / All

1. ____ she did was leave quickly.

2. ____ I need is more time.

3. ____ bothered me was his tone.

4. ____ she wants is respect.

5. ____ he did was apologise.

6. ____ surprises me is attitude.

7. ____ we need is better plan.

8. ____ he said shocked everyone.

9. ____ they want is honesty.

10. ____ she sees in him is unclear.

3 Fronting for Emphasis

HARD

Choose the correct fronted form.

Word bank: That noise / Brilliant / Out of the door

1. Fronted object: ____ I can't stand.

2. Fronted complement: ____ he is.

3. Fronted adverb: ____ they ran.

4. Fronted participle: ____ the crowd.

5. Fronted prepositional: ____ a dog.

6. Fronted predicate adj: ____ she was.

7. Fronted negative: ____ did she lie.

8. Fronted condition: ____ I would help.

9. Fronted concessive: ____ she tried.

10. Fronted time: ____ did he leave.

4

Rewrite Using Fronting/Cleft**VERY HARD**

Rewrite using the technique given.

1. John called me. (it-cleft)

3. She just wanted to leave. (what)

5. They met in London. (it-cleft)

7. She is absolutely brilliant. (front)

9. They landed in 1969. (it-cleft)

2. I admire her honesty. (it-cleft)

4. His attitude bothered me. (what)

6. I can't stand that noise. (front)

8. He really needs rest. (all)

10. His tone surprised me. (what)

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 It-Cleft Sentences

1 It was

2 It is

3 It was in

4 It was in

5 It was the

6 It was

7 It was

8 It was

9 It was

10 It was

2 Exercise 2 Pseudo-Cleft (What-Cleft)

1 What

2 What

3 What

4 What

5 What

6 What

7 What

8 What

9 What

10 What

3 Exercise 3 Fronting for Emphasis

1 That noise, I can't stand.

2 Brilliant, he is.

3 Out of the door they ran.

4 Cheering the crowd, she raised her arms.

5 Under the bed lay a dog.

6 Furious, she was.

7 Never did she lie.

8 Had I known, I would have helped.

9 Hard tried, she failed.

10 Only then did he leave.

4 Exercise 4 Rewrite Using Fronting/Cleft

1 It was John who called me.

2 It is her honesty that I admire most.

3 What she wanted was to leave.

4 What bothered me was his attitude.

5 It was in London that they met.

6 That noise, I can't stand.

7 Brilliant, she is.

8 All he needs is rest.

9 It was in 1969 that they landed.

10 What surprised me was his tone.