

Emphasis – *Focusing with Cleft Sentences*

Practice with *it*-clefts

Exercise 1 Rewrite each sentence to emphasize the relevant noun, starting with *It was*. Where possible leave out the pronoun. **Do NOT use contractions.**

E.G. Susie married Mike. - Not Mike, but Steve
No, it was Steve Susie married.

1. Mike bought her a ring for her birthday. - Not Mike but Steve.

No, _____

2. He bought her a ring for her birthday. - For their anniversary.

No, _____

3. He bought the necklace for Susie. - His daughter.

No, _____

4. He bought a guitar for Rick. - A drum kit.

No, _____

Exercise 2 Rewrite each sentence to emphasize the underlined phrase, starting with *It was*. You will need to add *that* to each sentence. Look carefully at the underlined words in the last two questions. **Do NOT use contractions.**

E.G. She liked the smell of hyacinths the best.
It was the smell of hyacinths **that** she liked the best.

1. He found studying math most difficult at school.

2. He first heard about it from Pamela.

3. She got the job because she was the best qualified.

4. Mike first met Susie when they were both studying in London.

5. I only realized who he was when he started speaking.

6. I didn't hear about it until yesterday.

Exercise 3 Rewrite each question to emphasize the underlined word or phrase, starting with *Was* or *Is* and including the word given. If it's (-), do not include any relative pronoun. Use contractions where appropriate.

1. Did Shakespeare write Hamlet? (that)

2. Are they coming on Monday? (that)

3. Did you meet your husband in London? (that)

4. Is Isabel your boss? (that's)

5. Do you prefer coffee? (-)

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6. Have you just come back from Thailand? (-)

7. Did you put diesel in the car? (-)

8. Have you pinched my pen? (who's)

Practice with *what*-clefts

Exercise 4 Fill each gap with ONE suitable word.

1. What I liked most about the movie _____ (1) the music.
2. What she _____ (2) was _____ (3) look for another job.
3. _____ (4) I said _____ (5) that he was a bit late, and he bit my head off.
4. What _____ (6) then _____ (7) that all hell broke loose.
5. All that has happened is _____ (8) the police _____ (9) given me a warning.
6. _____ (10) really annoys me _____ (11) that he's always right.
7. All I _____ (12) _____ (13) to ask for a clean cup, and the waiter went berserk.
8. What _____ (14) happened was that she'd completely forgotten about it.
9. Your attitude is exactly _____ (15) I was wanting to talk to you about.

Exercise 5 Complete each gap with one of the words in the box. Where necessary add *that*.

day · person · place · reason · stuff · thing · way

1. The _____ you really need to speak to is George, the guy standing by the fire.
2. One _____ I've asked you here today is to talk about last week's sales.
3. The _____ really **got my goat** was that he never even apologized. (*m'ennuyer, m'énerv*)
4. The main _____ I want to talk to you is to discuss your future.
5. The _____ it works is that you press this button here and hey presto!
6. The _____ we got married was the happiest day of my life.
7. One _____ I'll never forget is Niagara Falls.
8. The _____ works the best for that is this cleaning jelly.

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9. The _____ you need to remember is that he's only a child.
10. The _____ impressed me the most was Silvia; she really knew her stuff.
11. The _____ you need for cleaning oil off your hands is Swarfega.
12. One _____ to get it through the door is to put it on its end.
13. The _____ made the most lasting impression was the Temple of Venus.
14. The _____ works best for me is to write down new words in context.
15. The _____ I admire most is my grandfather.

Exercise 6 Complete each gap with a word or contraction from the box.

person · something · somebody · thing · what
way · happens · it's · time · that's · this

1. _____ Rick you should really speak to.
2. The best _____ would be to have a chat with Fred.
3. The best _____ to talk to would be Lucy.
4. Probably _____ I would do is speak to Robert.
5. _____ Rinaldo who deals with this sort of thing.
6. _____ to speak to might be Sally.
7. Terry's the _____ you should speak to.
8. What _____ next is that you go and find Tena.
9. _____ you could consider is having a word with Maria.
10. Why not speak to John. _____ what I would do.
11. _____ I advise is that you speak to Sheri as soon as possible.
12. Look, here it is. _____ is where Bill has his office.
13. Look at these figures! _____ is why it's so important that you speak to Jeannie.
14. The best _____ to catch Arthur is just after lunch.
15. The _____ I would do it is to tell Amicie that you need her expertise.