

What Caught My Eye Was ...

Cleft Sentences

A cleft sentence (means split in 2) is used to emphasize a particular part of a sentence. One element of the sentence is shifted from its normal position into a separate clause.

Example:

The gleaming exterior of the 1957 Chevy caught my eye.



Cleft: What caught my eye was the gleaming exterior of the 1957 Chevy.

Two major forms of cleft sentences- it and what

Sentences that begin with **it** and are followed by the verb **to be** and then **the focus** of the cleft sentence.

It: It was Matthew who got me interested in vintage cars. (emphasis in beginning)

Matthew got me interested in vintage cars.

In **what** sentences- what is the subject- followed by the clause and the verb **to be**

What: What I would like to buy is a vintage Thunderbird. (emphasis at end of sentence)

I would like to buy a vintage Thunderbird.

Fill in it or what

- _____ was the beautiful blue color that convinced me to buy the Cadillac.
- _____ was the idea of being in a vintage car parade that helped me make my decision.
- _____ I need now are the funds to make the purchase.
- _____ was the gorgeous whitewall tires that made the car all the more attractive.
- _____ I wanted most now was the classic muscle car I saw in the showroom.
- _____ thrilled me most about the 1955 Thunderbird was its classic design.
- _____ was the sleek fins on the light blue Thunderbird that made me like the car so much.

Transform the following sentences into cleft sentences

- I wanted to buy a vintage auto because of my nostalgia for bygone auto designs.

- Driving a vintage car makes you stand out in a crowd.

- The beautiful design of the classic Thunderbird makes owning it a joy. _____
- The 1957 Chevy is so special because of its two-toned exterior and its graceful fins. _____
- Muscle cars are exciting to own because of their unique design features and tremendous power.

- The opportunity to make new friendships with the owners of other classic cars was also important.

