

I NEED A DOLLAR - A DOLLAR IS WHAT I NEED - cleft sentences.

Sentence structure isn't necessarily fixed, but if you want to emphasise one part of a sentence, you can sometimes put it at the front of the sentences, cutting up the sentence. This is called a cleft sentence, or fronting. I know, who cares, right? But this is very useful when you're writing and when you're doing sentence transformations.

You use the verb BE and either WHAT or ALL or IT and sometimes relative pronouns. Nothing fancy.

1 Emphasise the object.

I need a coffee

but if coffee is exactly what you need

_____ I need _____ a coffee

2 Emphasise the verb

I want to travel

but if you want to do nothing else

_____ I want to do _____ travel

3 Emphasise the entire sentence

I did a test then an interview

but it's a good story

_____ (that) I did a test then an interview.

4 Emphasise the object with relative pronouns - it's not a question*

I spoke to the manager

but if it definitely wasn't someone else

_____ (who/that) I spoke to _____ the manager.

I bought it because it was cheap

but if you feel the need to justify yourself

_____ (why/that) I bought it _____ because it was cheap.

5 Emphasise whatever you like with relative pronouns and it.

SUBJECT

A boy in my class won the prize

not a girl, not from another class

_____ a boy in my class _____ won the prize.

OBJECT

They charged us extra for the wine

specifically the wine, not the dessert

_____ the wine _____ (or that) they charged us extra for.

*yes, it sounds weird, but it makes sense. What you need to do is trust me. See?