

## 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 sentence, 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?