

What are Cleft Sentences?

Worksheet

A cleft sentence is an emphatic structure that reorganizes a simple sentence into "It + be + focused element + relative clause" to highlight a specific word or phrase. For example: "It was John who called me" emphasizes John, not the action of calling.

Questions

1. Which is a correct cleft sentence?
A) It is John who stole the cookies.
B) It John is who stole the cookies.
C) John it is who stole the cookies.
D) Stole it John the cookies who.
2. What is being emphasized in: 'It was her talent that impressed us'?
A) The act of impressing
B) Her talent
C) Our reaction
D) The past tense
3. Cleft sentences are used to...
A) Make sentences shorter
B) Correct grammar errors
C) Emphasize one specific element
D) Always use past tense
4. Convert to cleft, emphasizing the time: 'She called me yesterday.'
A) It was she who called me yesterday.
B) It was yesterday that she called me.
C) She called it was me yesterday.
D) Yesterday it was she called me.
5. Convert to cleft: 'Mary won the competition.'
6. Convert to cleft: 'I discovered the problem on Tuesday.'
7. Create a cleft sentence emphasizing 'in the library' from: 'We met him in the library.'
8. Define: What is the basic cleft sentence pattern?
9. Define: Why use cleft sentences?
10. Define: Can you focus on time in a cleft sentence?

Answer Key

1. A) It is John who stole the cookies. — Cleft pattern: It + be + focus + relative clause. 'It is John who stole the cookies' is correct.
2. B) Her talent — The focus element ('her talent') comes right after the 'be' verb, so that's what's emphasized.
3. C) Emphasize one specific element — Cleft sentences reorganize to highlight or emphasize a particular part of the message.
4. B) It was yesterday that she called me. — To emphasize time, put 'yesterday' in the focus position: 'It was yesterday that she called me.'
5. Identify what to emphasize: Mary or winning? Cleft focusing on Mary: It was Mary who won the competition. Cleft focusing on competition: It was the competition that Mary won.
6. To emphasize the time: It was on Tuesday that I discovered the problem. To emphasize the problem: It was the problem that I discovered on Tuesday.
7. It was in the library that we met him. This uses a cleft to highlight the location. The stressed element is in the initial position after 'was'.
8. It + be + focused element + relative clause (who/that/where/when) + rest of sentence.
9. To emphasize or draw attention to one specific part of the sentence for effect or clarity.
10. Yes: 'It was last week that she told me' focuses on when, not what she told.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.