

Cleft Sentences Worksheet

Advanced C1-C2 · Side A

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 20

Exercise A · Rewrite as an it-cleft (Q1-5)

Emphasise the underlined element.

1. Maria found the missing key. (Maria)
-> _____
2. She called him at midnight. (at midnight)
-> _____
3. The noise woke the baby. (the noise)
-> _____
4. He discovered the error during the audit. (during the audit)
-> _____
5. They launched the product in January. (in January)
-> _____

Exercise B · True or False (Q6-10)

Write T (true) or F (false).

6. An it-cleft has the structure: It + be + focus element + relative clause.
Answer: _____
7. A wh-cleft has the structure: What + clause + be + focus element.
Answer: _____
8. Cleft sentences are used to add emphasis or contrast.
Answer: _____
9. 'What I need is a good rest' is an it-cleft sentence.
Answer: _____
10. Cleft sentences are common in both spoken and written English.
Answer: _____

Cleft Sentences Worksheet - Side B

Advanced C1-C2

Exercise C · Rewrite as a wh-cleft (Q11-14)

Use the structure: *What + clause + is/was + focus element.*

11. I need a good night's sleep.

-> _____

12. She wanted your honest opinion.

-> _____

13. They found the lack of communication most frustrating.

-> _____

14. He hated the constant interruptions.

-> _____

Exercise D · Multiple choice (Q15-17)

Identify the cleft type or emphasis.

15. 'It was the coach who inspired the team' is ____.

(a) a wh-cleft (b) an it-cleft (c) an inversion

16. 'What surprised me was her reaction' is ____.

(a) an it-cleft (b) a wh-cleft (c) a passive

17. 'It is hard work that leads to success' emphasises ____.

(a) hard work (b) success (c) leads

Exercise E · Write your own cleft sentences (Q18-20)

Use both cleft types.

18. It-cleft to emphasise a person ->

-> _____

19. It-cleft to emphasise a time or place ->

-> _____

20. Wh-cleft ('What I ... is ...') ->

-> _____

Answer Sheet - Cleft Sentences Worksheet

For teacher / self-marking use
only

Exercise A - Rewrite as an it-cleft

Q1-5

1. It was Maria who found the missing key.
2. It was at midnight that she called him.
3. It was the noise that woke the baby.
4. It was during the audit that he discovered the error.
5. It was in January that they launched the product.

Exercise B - True or False

Q6-10

6. T
7. T
8. T
9. F
10. T

Exercise C - Rewrite as a wh-cleft

Q11-14

11. What I need is a good night's sleep.
12. What she wanted was your honest opinion.
13. What they found most frustrating was the lack of communication.
14. What he hated was the constant interruptions.

Exercise D - Multiple choice

Q15-17

15. an it-cleft
16. a wh-cleft
17. hard work

Exercise E - Write your own cleft sentences

Q18-20

18. (own answer)
19. (own answer)
20. (own answer)

Total: 20 points | Side A: Q1-10 | Side B: Q11-20