

Cleft Sentences

What Is a Cleft Sentence?

A cleft sentence is when we take a normal sentence and divide it into two parts to emphasize one piece of information.

It's like putting a spotlight on one part of your sentence.

Instead of just giving information, you highlight what's important.

Normal sentence: I met Sarah yesterday

Cleft sentence:

It was Sarah that I met yesterday.

It was yesterday that I met Sarah.

Do you feel the difference?

The information is the same, but the focus changes. That's the power of a cleft sentence.

Personal Reflection Practice

- 1) What I really need right now is...
- 2) What annoys me most about people is...
- 3) What frustrates me most about city-living is...
- 4) What I've learned this year is...
- 5) The best thing about my childhood was...
- 6) What I really want to do right now is...
- 7) What I like most about the summer is...
- 8) All I want to do this weekend is...
- 9) What I should really do tomorrow is...
- 10) What I hate having to do every day is...

Writing and Speaking

Use one or two in your speaking and writing exam to elevate your grammar for the exam.

Speaking:

What I love most about ... is ...

What I find the most interesting is...

Writing:

It is ... that is considered the most important.

It is in ... that money should be invested.

What stood out the most for me was...

What I enjoyed most was...

The most disappointing aspect of the ... was...