

Speakout Advanced p 81. Cleft Sentences. Extra Examples

Emphasize the bold part of the following sentences starting with "It _____"

1. Barack Obama was sworn in **as President of the United States of America** on January the 20th 2009.
2. Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the United States of America **on January the 20th 2009.**
3. **Barack Obama** was sworn in as President of the United States of America on January the 20th 2009.
4. **On the day he resigned as Prime Minister,** Tony Blair was appointed the official Envoy of the Quartet on the Middle East on behalf of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, and Russia.
5. On the day he resigned as Prime Minister, Tony Blair was appointed the official Envoy of the quartet on the Middle east **on behalf of the United Nations, the European Union , the United States, and Russia.**
6. **Pompeii** was destroyed and completely buried during a long catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days in 79 AD.
7. Pompeii was destroyed and completely buried **during a long catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days** in 79 AD.
8. Pompeii was destroyed and completely buried during a long catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days **in 79 AD.**
9. Nixon resigned **on August 9, 1974** for his role in the Watergate scandal.
10. Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974 **for his role in the Watergate scandal.**
11. Martin Luther King was assassinated **in Memphis, Tennessee,** on April 4, 1968.
12. Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, **on April 4, 1968.**
13. **Martin Luther King** was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.
14. **On April 18, 1906,** an earthquake hit San Francisco and devastated the city.
15. On April 18, 1906, **an earthquake** hit San Francisco and devastated the city.
16. **On a September morning in 1928,** Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin from an already discarded, contaminated Petri dish.
17. On a September morning in 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin **from an already discarded, contaminated Petri dish.**

KEY

1. It was as President of the USA that Barack Obama was sworn in on January the 20th 2009.
2. It was on January the 20th 2009 that Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the USA.
3. It was Barack Obama that was sworn in as President of the USA on January the 20th 2009.
4. It was on the day that he resigned as Prime Minister that Tony Blair was appointed...
5. It was on behalf of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia that Tony Blair was appointed the official Envoy of the Quartet on the Middle East on the day he resigned as Prime Minister.
6. It was Pompeii that was destroyed and completely buried during...
7. It was during a long catastrophic eruption of the volcano Mount Vesuvius spanning two days that Pompeii was destroyed and completely buried in 79 AD.
8. It was in 79 AD that Pompeii was destroyed and completely buried during...
9. It was on August 9, 1974 that Nixon resigned for his role in the Watergate scandal.
10. It was for his role in the Watergate scandal that Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974.
11. It was in Memphis, Tennessee that Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.
12. It was on April 4, 1968 that Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
13. It was Martin Luther King that was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.
14. It was on April 18, 1906 that an earthquake hit San Francisco and devastated the city.
15. It was an earthquake that hit San Francisco and devastated the city on April 18, 1906.
16. It was on a September morning in 1928 that Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin from an already discarded, contaminated Petri dish.
Petri dish /'petri dɪʃ/ a shallow covered dish used for growing bacteria, etc. in.



17. It was from an already discarded, contaminated Petri dish that Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin on a September morning in 1928

1. Transform the following, emphasizing the part of the sentence which has been underlined.

0. I find it amazing that he can't even fry an egg.

What I find amazing is that he can't even fry an egg.

1. How old is she? That's what I'd like to know.

What _____.

2. He lost his job, so he started up his own business.

He lost his job, so what he _____.

3. What I enjoyed most about the film was the music.

It _____.

4. They got married in June, not in July.

It _____.

5. I didn't recognize him until he took his hat off.

It was only _____.

6. I only found out she had moved when I spoke to Jerry.

It wasn't _____.

7. I don't know what that noise is. I just switched it on, that's all.

I don't know what that noise is. All _____.

8. He thinks about his precious car and nothing else.

All _____.

KEY

1 What I'd like to know is how old she is.

2 He lost his job, so what he did was (to) start up his own business.

3 It was the music that I enjoyed most about the film.

4 It was in June that they got married, not July.

5 It was only when he took his hat off that I recognized him.

6 It wasn't until I spoke to Jerry that I found out she'd moved.

7 I don't know what that noise is. All I did was (to) switch it on.

8 All he (ever) thinks about is his precious car.

2. Complete each of the following sentences so that they are true for you.

- a. What worries me is
- b. What I like most / least about studying/ my job is
- c. What I'd like to know about is
- d. It was in that I
- e. I didn't enjoy lessons at school. All we ever did was.....

Speakout Advanced p 81. Cleft Sentences. Extra Grammar

If we want to give particular importance to a person, a thing or a clause in a sentence, we can use these structures:

It is/was...that

What...is/was

1. *It is/was...that* can be used:

- with (only) when, while or not until to emphasize a (period of) time

It was only when I got home that I realized someone had stolen my wallet.

It was while he was in Spain **that** Lennon wrote "Strawberry Fields Forever".

It wasn't until he took off his hat **that** I recognized him

- with because to emphasize reasons

Perhaps **it's because** I'm a chef **that** people never invite me to their dinner parties.

- to emphasize prepositional phrases

It was on the radio that I first heard the news.

It was in France, not their native England, **that** they first became famous.

- to emphasize a thing or a person

"who" can be used instead of "that" if we are referring to a person.

It was Gary that/who broke the chair.

It's his left arm that's broken, not his right one.

Modal verbs can be used instead of is/was

It can't be my mobile phone **that's** ringing- it's switched off.

It might have been the fish **that** made me feel ill.

2. *What...is/was* can be used to emphasize:

- a noun

What I most wanted to see in the Louvre **was** the Mona Lisa.

What I need **is** a cup of strong, black coffee.

- an action or series of actions

What you do then **is (to)** add the flour and stir it in thoroughly.

What happened **was (that)** I left my wallet in the café and had to go back.

I couldn't find my key, **so what I did was (to)** try and climb in through the window, but **what happened was (that)** a passer-by saw me and phoned the police.

All can be used instead of *What* to mean "the only thing that".

All he (ever) did during the school holidays **was (to)** play on his computer.

All I really want **is** a little house in the countryside.

Don't make a fuss. **All I did was (to)** spill some milk.
He's so boring. **All he (ever) talks about is** football.

Ex 3B

KEY

1 What police didn't initially realise was that the man standing in front of them was John Darwin, 'the missing canoe man'.

2 It was only when he failed to arrive at work for a night shift that the alarm was raised.

3 What he did then was spend the next few years hiding inside the house and rarely leaving.

4 It was a colleague of Anne Darwin's who eventually put the pieces of the puzzle together.

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Ex 1

KEY

1 The reason he lost his job was that he kept breaking the rules.

2 It was only when he left the theatre that he recognised her.

3 What I want to do is persuade them to come with us.

4 All I worry about/I'm worried about is whether she will have enough money.

5 What is amazing is that they have such a fantastic range of spices.

Ex 2

KEY

1

a) What elections have done is give these people their first real opportunity to decide who will govern them.

b) The thing that has given these people their first real opportunity to decide who will govern them is the elections.

c) It's the elections that have given these people their first real opportunity to decide who will govern them.

2

a) It was the airports, roads and rail systems that suffered widespread disruption due to the heavy snow and severe weather.

b) It was heavy snow and severe weather that caused widespread disruption to the country's airports, roads and rail systems.

c) What caused disruption to the country's airports, roads and rail systems was the heavy snow and severe weather.

3

a) What caused students to march through the city centre in protest were the new laws.

b) The reason hundreds of students marched through the city centre was to protest against the new laws.

c) What happened was hundreds of students marched through the city centre to protest against the new laws.

Ex 4

KEY

1 What I don't understand is why Anne Darwin didn't tell her sons about their father.

2 The place where they planned to start a new life was Panama.

3 It was the photograph of the couple buying a house in Panama that revealed the deception.

4 The thing that she couldn't understand was why Anne had decided to emigrate to Panama.

5 The reason why John Darwin flew back to the UK from Panama was that he was missing his sons.

6 What he found difficult was coming to terms with what his parents had done.

come to terms with something: to accept something unpleasant by learning to deal with it. E.g. She is still coming to terms with her son's death.

Ex 6A

KEY

1 b

trap somebody (+ adverb/preposition) to keep somebody in a dangerous place or bad situation that they want to get out of but cannot. E.g. Help! I'm trapped! They were trapped in the burning building. We became trapped by the rising floodwater. He was trapped in an unhappy marriage. I feel trapped in my job.

2 d

strand somebody to leave somebody in a place from which they have no way of leaving. E.g. The strike left hundreds of tourists stranded at the airport.

3 f

escape /ɪ'skeɪp/ to get away from an unpleasant or dangerous situation. E.g. people trying to escape poverty. She managed to escape from the burning car.

4 a

flee fled fled: to leave a person or place very quickly, especially because you are afraid of possible danger. E.g. a camp for refugees fleeing from the war. He fled to London after an argument with his family. He was caught trying to flee the country. The driver had already fled the scene of the accident.

5 h

release to let somebody/something come out of a place where they have been kept or trapped. E.g. to **release a prisoner/ hostage**. The authorities had recently released two political prisoners. The hostages are due to be released at 2 pm today. Firefighters took two hours to release the driver from the wreckage. He was released from prison in July.

6 g

make a break for something/for it to run towards something in order to try and escape. E.g. He suddenly leapt up and made a break for the door. They decided to **make a break for it** (= to try and escape) that night. He made a break for the exit.

7 e

hatch something (up) to create a plan or an idea, especially in secret. E.g. Have you been hatching up a deal with her? He hatched a plan with Matt to sell things on the Internet.

escape: /ɪ'skeɪp/ (N)

escape (from something) the act or a method of escaping from a place or an unpleasant or dangerous situation. E.g. an escape from a prisoner of war camp. I had a **narrow escape** (= I was lucky to have escaped). There was no hope of escape from her disastrous marriage. He took an elaborate **escape route** from South Africa to Britain. Make sure you are aware of possible **escape routes** from your hotel room. Our **escape route** was blocked. As soon as he turned his back, she would **make her escape**. The prisoners spent much of their time together hatching an **escape plan**. The **escape plan** was simple

8 c

air raid: an attack by a number of aircraft dropping many bombs on a place. Sp ataque aéreo. E.g. The family was killed in an air raid. An air-raid shelter/ warning.

refuge: /'refju:dʒ/ shelter or protection from danger, trouble, etc. E.g. A further 300 people have **taken refuge** in the US embassy. They were forced to **seek refuge** from the fighting. As the situation at home got worse she increasingly took refuge in her work. Residents took refuge from the bombing in the local church.

Ex 6B

KEY

1 stranded

2 trapped

malfunction: to fail to work correctly. E.g. He was killed when his parachute malfunctioned. Malfunctioning body cells.

3

**make a break for it
escape**

4 an escape plan

5 fled

call out: to shout something, especially when you are trying to get someone's attention. E.g. Hands up, please – don't call out. 'In here!' she called out. I tried to call out to him through the window.

6 released

Ex 6C

capture: to catch a person or an animal and keep them as a prisoner or in a confined space. E.g.

Allied /'ælaɪd/ troops captured over 300 enemy soldiers. The animals are captured in nets and sold to local zoos.