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C1-C2

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CLEFT SENTENCES

Cleft sentences emphasize a specific part of a sentence by placing it in a separate structure, often using a relative clause. They highlight new or important information by linking what is already known with what the speaker wants to stress. Because they are divided into two parts, they are called cleft (from cleave, meaning “to separate or divide”).

NORMAL SENTENCE (NON-EMPHATIC)	Wh-cleft sentences (pseudo-cleft sentences)
	WHAT CLAUSE + BE + EMPHASIS
We should tell the truth.	What we should do is tell the truth .
We want to go to London.	Where we want to go is London .
I called to ask for your help.	Why I called was to ask for your help .
Normal sentence (non-emphatic)	OTHER WH-CLEFT SENTENCES - CLAUSE + BE + EMPHASIS
You should mix the dough with your hands	How you should mix the dough is with your hands
I ask because I need to file a report.	Why I ask is because I need to file a report .
You should speak with Mike.	Who you should speak with is Mike .
Normal sentence (non-emphatic)	REVERSED WH-CLEFT: EMPHASIS + IS/WAS ...
He ate a pizza yesterday.	A pizza is what he ate yesterday.
We used to live in that house.	That house is where we used to live.
The dog chased the cat.	Chasing the cat is what the dog did.
Normal sentence (non-emphatic)	IT-CLEFT SENTENCES
	IT IS/WAS + EMPHASIS (WHO/THAT) ...
My brother bought a new car from...	It was a new car that my brother bought from ...
I didn't break the vase.	It was not me who broke the vase.
She called me yesterday.	It was yesterday when she called me.
You are in the wrong, not me.	It is you who is in the wrong, not me.
Normal sentence (non-emphatic)	CLEFT STRUCTURES : ... IS /WAS + EMPHASIS
	The reason why/that ... is/was + emphasis
I'm calling to ask a favour.	The reason (that) I'm calling is to ask a favour .
	The place where... is/was + emphasis
I do most of my shopping at Tesco.	The place where I do most of my shopping is Tesco .
	The person/one/people who ... is/was + emphasis
Jack helped me.	The person who helped me was Jack .
	The day when ... is/was + emphasis
The Second World War ended on 7 May 1945 in Europe.	The day (when) the Second World War ended in Europe was 7 May 1945
	The (one/first/only) thing that...is/was + emphasis
His voice impressed me.	The thing that impressed me was his voice .
	All ... do/does/did + is/was + emphasis
He complained about how busy he was.	All he did was complain about how busy he was .