

CLEFT SENTENCES FOR EMPHASIS

1. WHAT / ALL

What + clause + be + emphasized information

- He needs a new car. (He needs / a new car)

What he needs is a new car.

They didn't get an answer. (they didn't get / an answer)

What they didn't get was an answer.

All + clause + be + emphasized information

- He wants a new laptop.

All he wants is a new laptop.

They got on the wrong train.

All they did was get on the wrong train.

2. What happens is .../ What happened was : to emphasize an event or a sequence of events.

- You take the first test and then you are called for the interview.

What happens is (that) you take the first test and then you are called for the interview.

- He took the wrong direction and he ended up at the other side of the town.

What happened was (that) he took the wrong direction and he ended up at the other side of the town.

3. Emphasize with relative clauses:

- **The person who/ that + clause + be+ emphasized information**

I spoke to the sales manager.

The person (who) I spoke to was the sales manager.

- **The thing which / that + clause + be + emphasized information**

I love swimming in the sea.

The thing (that) I love is swimming in the sea.

- **The place where + clause + be+ emphasized information**

We stayed at an amazing hotel for our honeymoon.

The place / hotel where we stayed at for our honeymoon was amazing.

- **The first / last ... time that + clause + be+ emphasized information**

I last saw him at the shopping centre.

The last time (that) I saw him was at the shopping centre.

- **The reason why + clause + be + emphasized information (with because or that)**

I want to visit New York because it is in my bucket list.

The reason why I want to visit New York is because it is in my bucket list.

4. It + is / was + emphasized information + relative clause.

My friend John won the Jack Pot last summer.

- It was my friend John who won the Jack Pot last summer.

- It was the Jack Pot that my friend John won last summer.

- It was last summer when my friend John won the Jack Pot.

It was me who won the lottery (object pronoun in informal spoken English)

It was I who won the lottery (subject pronoun in formal English)

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

Mahatma Gandhi

What the world really needs is more love and less paper work.

Pearl Bailey

It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.

Charles Darwin

What I know for sure is that what you give comes back to you.

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It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lorde

What inspires me most are people who imagine and implement solutions to challenges in their own lives, in their communities, in our country and around the world.

Chelsea Clinton