Cleft Sentences Worksheet: It Was… That, What I Need Is…

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
It is / was + focus + that / who + rest	It was my brother who found the wallet.
What + subject + verb + is / was + focus	What I love about Rome is the food.
All + subject + verb + is…	All I want is a quiet weekend.
The thing / reason / place + clause + is…	The reason why I left is the salary.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
Is my sister who lives in Canada.	It's my sister who lives in Canada.
What I need it is a coffee.	What I need is a coffee.
The thing what annoys me is the noise.	The thing that annoys me is the noise.

1. Rewrite

Rewrite each sentence to emphasise the words in capitals, starting with the words given.

1. TOM broke the window. → It _____

2. I need A HOLIDAY. → What _____

3. She met him IN PARIS. → It _____

4. I want TO SLEEP. → All _____

5. The traffic annoys me. → What _____

6. I left because of THE SALARY. → The reason _____

7. We didn't like THE FOOD. → It _____

8. She wants TO TRAVEL. → What _____

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. It was my mum (who / which) taught me to cook.
2. What I like (is / it is) his honesty.
3. (It's / What's) the noise that I can't stand.
4. All I did (was / were) ask a question!
5. The place (where / what) we met was a bookshop.
6. (What / That) surprised me was the price.
7. It wasn't until midnight (that / when) she arrived.
8. What we need (are / is) more time.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. Was Paul who called you.
2. What I don't understand it is why he left.
3. The thing what I miss most is the sea.
4. It were my parents who paid.
5. All what I want is peace.
6. It was in 2015 when I moved here. (cleft)

Writing

Write 6 sentences about your city or your job using cleft sentences: what you love, what annoys you, the thing you would change and who or what made the biggest difference.

Speaking

- What do you love most about the place where you live?
- Who was it that influenced you most as a teenager?
- What annoys you about modern technology?
- All you want this weekend is...?

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 It was Tom who broke the window. · 2 What I need is a holiday. · 3 It was in Paris that she met him. · 4 All I want is to sleep / to do is sleep. · 5 What annoys me is the traffic. · 6 The reason (why) I left was the salary. · 7 It was the food that we didn't like. · 8 What she wants is to travel.

2. Choose: 1 who · 2 is · 3 It's · 4 was · 5 where · 6 What · 7 that · 8 is

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 It was Paul who called you. · 2 What I don't understand is why he left. · 3 The thing (that) I miss most is the sea. · 4 It was my parents who paid. · 5 All (that) I want is peace. · 6 It was in 2015 that I moved here.

Writing, model answer: What I love most about my city is the river. It's the old bridges that make it so beautiful. What annoys me is the traffic in the centre. The thing I would change is the public transport. It was my first boss who taught me to love this job. All I need now is a slightly shorter commute.