Gr.12 Clefting and Fronting – Explanation, Rules & Exercises

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1. Understanding Clefting and Fronting

A. Clefting

Clefting is a grammatical structure used to emphasize a particular part of a sentence by dividing it into two clauses. This restructuring helps highlight the most important information.

Types of Cleft Sentences

1. **It-Cleft**: Emphasizes a specific element by using "it is/was" + emphasized part + relative clause.
   - Example: *It was John who fixed the car.*
2. **Wh-Cleft (Pseudo-Cleft)**: Uses a wh-clause to focus on an element.
   - Example: *What I need is a cup of coffee.*
3. **Reversed Wh-Cleft (Inverted Pseudo-Cleft)**: Places the wh-clause at the end for emphasis.
   - Example: *A cup of coffee is what I need.*
4. **All-Cleft**: Emphasizes with "all" at the beginning.
   - Example: *All I wanted was some quiet time.*
5. **There-Cleft**: Uses "there" to highlight an element.
   - Example: *There was a storm that caused the blackout.*

B. Fronting

Fronting is the rearrangement of a sentence where a particular element is moved to the beginning to emphasize it.

Types of Fronting

1. **Object Fronting**: Moves the object to the front for emphasis.
   - Example: *This book, I have already read.*
2. **Adverbial Fronting**: Moves an adverbial phrase or clause to the front.
   - Example: *On the table sat a beautiful vase.*
3. **Negative Fronting**: Moves a negative phrase to the beginning for emphasis.
   - Example: *Never have I seen such a beautiful sunset.*
4. **Comparative Fronting**: Moves a comparative phrase forward.
   - Example: *More important than money is happiness.*
5. **Prepositional Phrase Fronting**: Moves a prepositional phrase to the beginning.
   - Example: *In the garden, the children played happily.*

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2. Exercises with Answers

A. Identify the Type of Cleft Sentence

Mark whether the following sentences use **It-Cleft, Wh-Cleft, Reversed Wh-Cleft, All-Cleft, or There-Cleft**.

1. *What I love most is traveling.*
2. *It was Sarah who called you last night.*
3. *There was a loud noise that scared the dog.*
4. *All he wanted was a chance to prove himself.*
5. *A warm hug is what she needed most.*

Answers:

1. Wh-Cleft
2. It-Cleft
3. There-Cleft
4. All-Cleft
5. Reversed Wh-Cleft

B. Rewrite Using Cleft Sentences

Rewrite the sentences using a **cleft structure** to add emphasis.

1. *John wrote the novel.* (Use It-Cleft)
2. *She likes chocolate the most.* (Use Wh-Cleft)
3. *A good leader is what the company needs.* (Use Reversed Wh-Cleft)
4. *The storm damaged the house.* (Use There-Cleft)
5. *He only wanted a sincere apology.* (Use All-Cleft)

Answers:

1. *It was John who wrote the novel.*
2. *What she likes the most is chocolate.*
3. *What the company needs is a good leader.*
4. *There was a storm that damaged the house.*
5. *All he wanted was a sincere apology.*

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C. Advanced Fronting Exercises

Rewrite the sentences using **fronting** techniques.

1. *She had never experienced such joy before.*
2. *We found the ancient manuscript in the attic.*
3. *You must complete the assignment before the deadline.*
4. *A rare bird landed on the branch.*
5. *They will announce the winner at the ceremony.*

Answers:

1. *Never had she experienced such joy before.*
2. *In the attic, we found the ancient manuscript.*
3. *Before the deadline, you must complete the assignment.*
4. *On the branch landed a rare bird.*
5. *At the ceremony, they will announce the winner.*

D. Transform Sentences with Mixed Clefting and Fronting

Rewrite the following sentences using **both clefting and fronting** for emphasis.

1. *She bought the house last year.*
2. *They discovered the treasure in the cave.*
3. *I only needed a moment of peace.*
4. *The police arrested the suspect at midnight.*
5. *She won the gold medal in the final race.*

Answers:

1. *It was last year that she bought the house.* / *Last year, it was the house that she bought.*
2. *It was in the cave that they discovered the treasure.* / *In the cave, it was the treasure that they discovered.*
3. *All I needed was a moment of peace.* / *A moment of peace was all I needed.*
4. *It was at midnight that the police arrested the suspect.* / *At midnight, it was the suspect that the police arrested.*
5. *It was in the final race that she won the gold medal.* / *In the final race, it was the gold medal that she won.*

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3. Summary Table

Concept	Definition	Example
It-Cleft	Emphasizes using "It is/was"	*It was Tom who won the race.*
Wh-Cleft	Uses "what" or other wh-words	*What I want is peace.*
Reversed Wh-Cleft	Moves wh-clause to the end	*Peace is what I want.*
All-Cleft	Starts with "all"	*All he wanted was success.*
There-Cleft	Uses "there" to emphasize	*There was a mistake that led to confusion.*
Object Fronting	Moves object to the front	*This problem, I cannot solve.*
Adverbial Fronting	Moves adverbial phrase to the front	*Yesterday, we visited the museum.*
Negative Fronting	Moves negative phrase to the beginning	*Never have I been so excited.*
Comparative Fronting	Moves comparative structure forward	*More beautiful than Paris is Venice.*
Prepositional Phrase Fronting	Moves prepositional phrase to the beginning	*On the wall hung a large painting.*

Sorted out by Mr. Ahmad Hamza

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