



IELTS Writing Community

www.BayaneBartar.org

IELTS Writing Community

Lecture 26 Cleft Sentences

What is a Cleft Sentences

'Cleft' means divided. In a cleft sentence, information which could be given in one clause is divided into two parts, each with its own verb:

Mike has made the greatest impact.

(normal sentence: single clause, one verb)

It is Mike who has made the greatest impact.

(cleft sentence: two clauses, two verbs)

Cleft Sentences

it + a form of be (+ not and/or adverb) + emphasised word/phrase
+ that/which/who clause

Sentence

Mike took Sally to the party on Saturday.

Emphasising the subject

It was Mike who took Sally to the party on Saturday.

Emphasising the object

It was Sally (that) Mike took to the party on Saturday.

Emphasising the adverbial

It was on Saturday (that) Mike took Sally to the party.

Emphasising the prepositional

It was to the party (that) Mike took Sally on Saturday.

Cleft Sentences

wh- clause + a form of be + emphasised word or phrase

What Mike did was take/to take Sally to the party.

If the highlighted verb is in the continuous or perfect, the form of do matches it:

The boys aren't leaving Sandy at home. They are taking him to the match.

- What the boys are doing is taking Sandy to the match.

Old members are absent but the new members have taken their seats in the assembly.

- What the new members have done is taken their seats in the assembly.

Cleft Sentences

We can use wh- clauses with **when**, **where**, **why** and **who** to highlight a person, a place, a time and a reason, but we usually use an introductory noun phrase (underlined below).

The wh- clause acts like an ordinary relative clause:

Person	<u>The guy</u> who told me about the new club was Zack.
Place	<u>The house</u> where I used to live is near here.
Time	<u>The day</u> (when) we left was the saddest day of my life.
Reason	<u>The reason</u> (why) they never told me is they do not trust me.

Cleft Sentences

We can emphasise an item (described by a noun phrase or a verb phrase) with the (only/last) thing or all:

The thing I most disliked about the movie was the scene in the graveyard.

The only thing we did not find was the key to the cellar.

The last thing we did was pack the kettle.

All we are asking for is to be given a chance.

The thing we will not do is repair goods bought in other shops.

An Example of Cleft Sentences

On the other hand, others put forward the argument that these activities are wasteful by nature. **The most compelling reason justifying their assertion is that the time and energy expended on playing computer games can be put to better use. In other words, instead of playing games, young people can allot this time and effort to acquiring useful and even marketable skills. More specifically, they can acquire special expertise, useful for either academic or professional progress. A good illustration of this is learning a foreign language, which can give them a competitive edge both on the job market and in their academic life.** Furthermore, no lasting and tangible benefit can be reaped of these games; **all they provide players with is fleeting excitement.**

Contact me



Hamed Mohammad Hosseini



t.me/Hamedmhosseini



hmhosseini@BayaneBartar.org