

CLEFT SENTENCES

- to help us focus on a particular part of the sentence and to emphasise what we want to say
- useful in writing where we cannot use intonation but also used in speech

***It*-clauses**

- used to emphasize a specific subject or object
- the introductory clause is then followed by a relative pronoun

It + be + focus + clause

My brother bought his new car from our next-door neighbour last Saturday.

→ ***It was my brother who*** bought his new car from our neighbour last Saturday.

→ ***It was last Saturday when*** my brother bought his new car from our neighbour.

→ ***It was a new car that*** my brother bought from our neighbour last Saturday.

→ ***It was our next-door neighbour that*** my brother bought his new car from last Saturday.

***What*-clauses**

- also used to emphasize a specific subject or object
- the clause introduced by 'What' is employed as the subject of the sentence as is followed by the verb 'to be'

***What*-clause + *be* + focus**

We need a good long shower.

→ ***What*** we need ***is*** a good long shower.