



## Cleft Sentences:

### It-Cleft Basics: Emphasising with It is/was ... who/that

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. It was my mother \_\_\_\_ taught me how to cook.  
a) who  
b) whom  
c) where  
d) which
2. It was the storm \_\_\_\_ caused the power outage.  
a) whom  
b) which  
c) who  
d) that
3. It was Sarah \_\_\_\_ organised the whole event.  
a) whom  
b) who  
c) where  
d) which
4. It is the final exam \_\_\_\_ makes students nervous.  
a) whom  
b) which  
c) that  
d) who
5. It was the old bridge \_\_\_\_ collapsed during the flood.  
a) whom  
b) which  
c) who  
d) that
6. It was Dr. Lee \_\_\_\_ performed the surgery.  
a) who  
b) which  
c) whom  
d) where
7. It is honesty \_\_\_\_ matters most in a friendship.  
a) which  
b) who  
c) that  
d) whom
8. It was the manager \_\_\_\_ approved the budget.  
a) whom  
b) who  
c) which  
d) where
9. It \_\_\_\_ the loud thunder that frightened the children last night.  
a) is  
b) were  
c) was  
d) are
10. It \_\_\_\_ regular exercise that keeps you healthy.  
a) was  
b) is  
c) were  
d) are
11. It \_\_\_\_ the broken pipe that flooded the basement yesterday.  
a) was  
b) is  
c) were  
d) are





## Answers

1. a) who
2. d) that
3. b) who
4. c) that
5. d) that
6. a) who
7. c) that
8. b) who
9. c) was
10. b) is
11. a) was
12. d) is
13. d) It
14. a) It
15. b) It
16. c) wasn't
17. a) wasn't
18. d) wasn't
19. c) that
20. b) was



# Explanations

## 1. “who” (a)

Use 'who' for people in it-cleft sentences. 'Which' and 'where' cannot refer to people, and 'whom' requires an object position, but here the blank needs a subject.

## 2. “that” (d)

Use 'that' for things and events in it-cleft sentences. Unlike ordinary relative clauses, cleft sentences do not use 'which' — 'that' is the standard connector. 'Who' and 'whom' are only used for people.

## 3. “who” (b)

Use 'who' when the focused element is a person. 'Which' and 'where' cannot refer to people, and 'whom' does not fit a subject position.

## 4. “that” (c)

Use 'that' when emphasising a thing in it-cleft sentences. 'Who' and 'whom' are reserved for people.

## 5. “that” (d)

Use 'that' for things in it-cleft sentences. A bridge is not a person, so 'who' and 'whom' are incorrect.

## 6. “who” (a)

Use 'who' for people in it-cleft sentences. Dr. Lee is a person, so 'which' and 'where' do not apply.

## 7. “that” (c)

Even though honesty is a positive quality, it is not a person. Use 'that' for things, concepts, and abstract nouns in it-cleft sentences. Note: 'which' is not standard in cleft sentences, unlike in ordinary relative clauses.

## 8. “who” (b)

The manager is a person, so use 'who' in the it-cleft. 'Which' and 'where' cannot refer to people.

## 9. “was” (c)

Use 'was' because the event happened in the past ('last night'). The subject 'It' takes a singular verb, so 'were' and 'are' are incorrect.

## 10. “is” (b)

Use 'is' for general truths and present facts. The present tense verb 'keeps' in the that-clause confirms this is a timeless statement.

## 11. “was” (a)

Use 'was' because 'yesterday' signals a past event. 'Is' would indicate present time, which contradicts the context.

## 12. “is” (d)

Use 'is' for general truths. The present tense verb 'separates' confirms this is a timeless statement, not a past event.

## 13. “It” (d)

It-cleft sentences always begin with 'It'. 'There', 'That', and 'This' do not form the cleft emphasis pattern 'It is/was ... that'.

## 14. “It” (a)

It-cleft sentences use 'It' as the grammatical subject. 'There', 'This', and 'That' cannot begin a standard cleft sentence.

**15. “It” (b)**

Cleft sentences always start with 'It' to create emphasis. 'That', 'There', and 'This' do not produce the it-cleft structure.

**16. “wasn't” (c)**

Use 'wasn't' to negate a past it-cleft sentence. 'Weren't' does not agree with singular 'It', and 'isn't' contradicts the past tense ('bothered').

**17. “wasn't” (a)**

Use 'wasn't' for negative it-cleft sentences in the past. 'Weren't' does not match singular 'It', and 'not' alone cannot form a verb phrase.

**18. “wasn't” (d)**

Use 'wasn't' to deny one element and emphasise another in a past context. 'Weren't' does not agree with 'It', and 'isn't' contradicts the past tense ('stopped').

**19. “that” (c)**

Although 'children's' appears in the sentence, the focused element is 'laughter', which is a thing. Use 'that' for things, not 'who'.

**20. “was” (b)**

Use 'was' because 'won' in the that-clause is past tense. Even though teamwork is a general concept, the specific event described happened in the past.