



Fronting:

Locative, Predicate & Academic Fronting

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- In the centre of the village ____.
a) stood an ancient stone fountain
b) did an ancient stone fountain stand
c) an ancient stone fountain did stand
d) standing was an ancient stone fountain
- On the highest shelf ____ a dusty leather-bound book that no one had opened for years.
a) did lie
b) was lying it
c) it lay
d) lay
- Beneath the old bridge ____ a family of ducks, undisturbed by the passing boats.
a) did swim
b) has swum
c) swam
d) swimming
- Along the narrow canal ____ a row of brightly painted houseboats.
a) did stretch
b) stretched
c) stretching
d) were stretched
- Through the heavy curtain ____.
a) stepped a tall figure in black
b) did step a tall figure in black
c) a tall figure in black did step
d) stepping a tall figure in black was
- Down the winding staircase ____, her veil trailing behind her.
a) did the bride come
b) came the bride
c) the bride did come
d) coming the bride was
- Out of the dense fog ____.
a) did emerge a massive cargo ship
b) a massive cargo ship did emerge
c) emerging a massive cargo ship was
d) emerged a massive cargo ship
- ____ the days when you could leave your front door unlocked.
a) Are gone
b) Have gone
c) Gone are
d) Being gone
- ____ the report you requested last week.
a) Attached are
b) Is attached
c) Attaching is
d) Attached is
- ____ the role of public transport in reducing carbon emissions.
a) Is equally important
b) Equally important is
c) Important equally is
d) Equally is important
- ____ among the papers was a handwritten letter from the 19th century.
a) Was hidden
b) It hidden
c) Hidden
d) Having hidden



Answers

1. a) stood an ancient stone fountain
2. d) lay
3. c) swam
4. b) stretched
5. a) stepped a tall figure in black
6. b) came the bride
7. d) emerged a massive cargo ship
8. c) Gone are
9. d) Attached is
10. b) Equally important is
11. c) Hidden
12. a) Of particular significance is
13. b) Central to this debate is
14. d) Worthy of note is
15. c) Especially relevant to our discussion is
16. a) he walked
17. c) There are
18. b) they ran
19. a) we climbed
20. d) she hurried



Explanations

1. “stood an ancient stone fountain” (a)

Locative fronting uses full subject-verb inversion: 'In the centre of the village stood an ancient stone fountain.' The verb 'stood' comes directly before the subject. Do NOT use subject-auxiliary inversion ('did...stand') — that pattern is for negative adverbials.

2. “lay” (d)

With a fronted locative phrase and a full noun subject, use simple S-V inversion: 'On the highest shelf lay a dusty leather-bound book...' The past tense 'lay' (not 'lie') inverts with the subject. No auxiliary is needed.

3. “swam” (c)

Locative fronting with an intransitive verb of motion: 'Beneath the old bridge swam a family of ducks...' Use the simple past verb directly before the subject. Auxiliary inversion ('did swim') is not used in locative fronting.

4. “stretched” (b)

Locative fronting: 'Along the narrow canal stretched a row of brightly painted houseboats.' The intransitive verb 'stretched' (meaning 'extended') inverts directly with the subject. No auxiliary is needed.

5. “stepped a tall figure in black” (a)

Directional fronting uses full S-V inversion with verbs of motion: 'Through the heavy curtain stepped a tall figure in black.' The verb 'stepped' comes directly before the subject.

6. “came the bride” (b)

Directional fronting: 'Down the winding staircase came the bride...' With a fronted directional phrase and a full noun subject, the verb of motion inverts directly with the subject. 'Did the bride come' uses the wrong inversion type.

7. “emerged a massive cargo ship” (d)

Directional fronting: 'Out of the dense fog emerged a massive cargo ship.' The verb 'emerged' inverts with the full noun subject. This is full S-V inversion, not S-Aux inversion.

8. “Gone are” (c)

Predicate fronting: 'Gone are the days when...' The past participle 'gone' is fronted, and the verb 'are' follows. This is a well-known fixed expression. 'Are gone' reverses the fronted order.

9. “Attached is” (d)

Predicate participle fronting: 'Attached is the report...' The past participle 'attached' is fronted for emphasis, followed by the singular verb 'is' matching the singular subject 'the report'. Common in formal emails.

10. “Equally important is” (b)

Predicate adjective fronting: 'Equally important is the role of...' The adjective phrase is fronted before the verb 'is' for emphasis. This pattern is common in academic writing to highlight a new point.

11. “Hidden” (c)

Predicate participle fronting: 'Hidden among the papers was a handwritten letter...' The past participle 'hidden' is fronted. 'Was hidden' would create a double verb ('was hidden...was a letter'). 'Having hidden' implies the letter hid something else.

12. “Of particular significance is” (a)

Academic prepositional fronting: 'Of particular significance is the finding that...' The prepositional phrase is fronted before 'is' + subject. This formal pattern is standard in academic papers and reports.

13. “Central to this debate is” (b)

Academic fronting: 'Central to this debate is the claim that...' The adjective phrase 'central to this debate' is fronted before 'is' + subject. 'This debate is central to' reverses the intended meaning.

14. “Worthy of note is” (d)

Academic fronting: 'Worthy of note is the fact that...' The adjective phrase 'worthy of note' is fronted for emphasis. This formal pattern introduces an important observation in academic writing.

15. “Especially relevant to our discussion is” (c)

Academic fronting: 'Especially relevant to our discussion is the observation that...' The full adjective phrase is fronted before 'is' + subject. Note: 'especially' must stay before 'relevant', not between 'relevant' and 'to'.

16. “he walked” (a)

With a PRONOUN subject, locative/directional fronting does NOT trigger full S-V inversion: 'Into the room he walked...' Full inversion ('walked he') only occurs with full noun subjects ('walked a stranger'). This is a key rule for fronting.

17. “There are” (c)

This is an existential 'there' construction, not locative fronting: 'There are many unusual species...' Do not confuse existential 'there' (introducing new information) with locative fronting (moving a place phrase to the front).

18. “they ran” (b)

Pronoun subjects do NOT invert in directional fronting: 'Across the playground they ran...' Compare with a full noun subject: 'Across the playground ran the children...' (inversion). This distinction is crucial at C1 level.

19. “we climbed” (a)

Pronoun subject 'we' prevents full S-V inversion: 'Up the steep hill we climbed...' Only full noun subjects trigger inversion in directional fronting: 'Up the steep hill climbed the exhausted hikers.'

20. “she hurried” (d)

With the pronoun subject 'she', no inversion occurs: 'Along the corridor she hurried towards the exit.' Full inversion is only used with full noun subjects: 'Along the corridor hurried a group of students.'