

Emphatic Structures – Test 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30



Take this test online
and check your
answers instantly

Choose the one correct option (A–D) for each question.

Part 1: Cleft sentences

Choose the option that correctly completes or answers each question about *it*-clefts and *wh*-clefts.

- _____ was Maria who suggested we take the train, not Tom.
A It B That C What D She
- What I need right now _____ a long holiday.
A is B are C it is D that is
- Which sentence emphasises the time in: 'Kenji moved to Lisbon in 2015'?
A It was in 2015 that Kenji moved to Lisbon.
B It was 2015 when that Kenji moved to Lisbon.
C What was in 2015 Kenji moved to Lisbon.
D It was in 2015 which Kenji moved to Lisbon.
- All I wanted _____ a quiet evening at home.
A was B were C it was D is that
- What she did was _____ the manager directly.
A call B called C calling D to calling
- Find the error: It was the noise from the street what kept me awake all night.
A It was B the noise from the street
C what D kept me awake
- It isn't the price _____ worries me; it's the quality.
A that B what C who D it
- _____ that you first met your partner?
A Where was it B Where it was C Where did it D Was it where
- The reason _____ I called is to invite you to the party.
A why B because C for D what
- _____ I really admire about Leila is her patience.
A What B That C Which D It

Part 2: Inversion after negative and limiting adverbials

Choose the correct option. Pay attention to word order after the fronted expression.

- Never _____ such a beautiful sunset.
A have I seen B I have seen C I saw D did I saw

12. Not only _____ late, but she also forgot the tickets.
A was she **B** she was **C** she is **D** did she be
13. Hardly had we sat down _____ the phone rang.
A when **B** than **C** that **D** then
14. No sooner had the film started _____ the power went out.
A than **B** when **C** that **D** then
15. Little _____ that the surprise party was for him.
A did he know **B** he knew **C** knew he **D** he did know
16. Under no circumstances _____ the doors be opened during the flight.
A should **B** you should **C** shouldn't **D** should not
17. Only when the results were published _____ how serious the problem was.
A did we realise **B** we realised **C** we did realise **D** realised we
18. Not until she reached the airport _____ her passport was missing.
A did she notice **B** she noticed **C** noticed she **D** had noticed she
19. So _____ that nobody could hear the speaker.
A loud was the music **B** the music was loud **C** loud the music was **D** was the music loud
20. Which sentence is correct?
A Only after the meeting I understood the plan.
B Only after the meeting did I understand the plan.
C Only after the meeting did I understood the plan.
D Only after the meeting understood I the plan.

Part 3: Emphatic do, fronting and other devices

Choose the correct option, find the error or choose the best response.

21. I know you think I forgot, but I _____ lock the door before I left.
A did **B** do **C** was **D** had
22. Although he rarely writes, he _____ phone his mother every Sunday.
A does **B** do **C** did to **D** is
23. Find the error: She does knows how to make people feel welcome.
A does **B** knows **C** how to **D** feel welcome
24. A: 'You never help with the housework.' B: '_____
A That's not true – I do help. I washed the dishes last night.
B That's not true – I do helped. I washed the dishes last night.
C That's not true – I does help. I washed the dishes last night.
D That's not true – I am help. I washed the dishes last night.
25. _____ come to the party – we'd love to see you!
A Do **B** Does **C** Did **D** Be
26. It wasn't until I moved abroad _____ I appreciated my hometown.
A that **B** when **C** than **D** so

27. Which sentence uses fronting correctly for contrast?

- A** The first chapter I enjoyed, but the rest was rather dull.
- B** The first chapter did I enjoy, but the rest was rather dull.
- C** The first chapter enjoyed I, but the rest was rather dull.
- D** The first chapter I did enjoyed, but the rest was rather dull.

28. What _____ are you doing here at this hour?

- A** on earth
- B** in earth
- C** at earth
- D** of earth

29. The director _____ came to congratulate us after the show.

- A** herself
- B** her own
- C** by her
- D** alone herself

30. Find the error: Rarely we have seen such enthusiasm among the students.

- A** Rarely
- B** we have seen
- C** such
- D** among

Answer key – Emphatic Structures – Test 1

1 A	2 A	3 A	4 A	5 A	6 C	7 A	8 A	9 A	10 A
11 A	12 A	13 A	14 A	15 A	16 A	17 A	18 A	19 A	20 B
21 A	22 A	23 B	24 A	25 A	26 A	27 A	28 A	29 A	30 B

Explanations

- A** – It-clefts follow the pattern It + be + emphasised element + who/that.
- A** – In a wh-cleft, the clause beginning with What is the subject and is followed by a singular form of be.
- A** – An adverbial is emphasised with It was + adverbial + that + clause.
- A** – 'All I wanted' works like a wh-clause and is followed by singular 'was' in the past.
- A** – After 'What + subject + did was', we use the bare infinitive (or to-infinitive), not a past form.
- C** – It-clefts use 'that' (or 'which'), never 'what', to introduce the second clause.
- A** – Negative it-clefts still use 'that' to introduce the clause after the focused element.
- A** – In a cleft question, the question word comes first, followed by inverted 'was it'.
- A** – The pattern is 'The reason why/that ... is ...'; 'because' is redundant here.
- A** – A wh-cleft begins with 'What' meaning 'the thing that'.
- A** – After fronted 'Never', the auxiliary comes before the subject.
- A** – 'Not only' at the start requires inversion: was + subject.
- A** – 'Hardly ... when' is the fixed pattern; 'than' goes with 'No sooner'.
- A** – 'No sooner' is a comparative structure, so it is followed by 'than'.
- A** – Fronted 'Little' (meaning 'not at all') requires the auxiliary 'did' before the subject.
- A** – 'Under no circumstances' is already negative, so we use a positive auxiliary in inverted order.
- A** – With 'Only when ...', inversion happens in the main clause, not in the time clause.
- A** – 'Not until + clause' is followed by inversion in the main clause: did + subject + verb.
- A** – The emphatic pattern is So + adjective + be + subject + that ...
- B** – 'Only after' requires do-inversion with the base form of the main verb.
- A** – Emphatic 'did' + base form stresses that a past action really happened.
- A** – Emphatic 'does' is used with a third-person singular subject in the present, followed by the base form.
- B** – After emphatic 'does', the main verb must be in the base form: 'know'.
- A** – Emphatic 'do' + base form is used to contradict what someone has said.
- A** – 'Do' before an imperative makes an invitation or request more emphatic and friendly.
- A** – The negative cleft 'It wasn't until ... that ...' is the standard emphatic pattern.
- A** – When an object is fronted for contrast, the normal subject–verb order stays the same.
- A** – 'On earth' after a question word adds emphasis, often showing surprise or annoyance.
- A** – An emphatic reflexive pronoun stresses that it was the director and nobody else.
- B** – After fronted 'Rarely', the auxiliary must come before the subject: 'have we seen'.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching cleft sentences and negative inversion, or as a diagnostic before C1 exam preparation. The distractors target typical advanced-level errors, such as using 'what' instead of 'that' in it-clefts, forgetting auxiliary inversion, mixing 'than' and 'when' after No sooner and Hardly, and adding '-s' or '-ed' to the main verb after emphatic do. As a follow-up, ask students to rewrite a neutral paragraph using at least five different emphatic structures.