**IMPROVE YOUR TONES**

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|  **What is the intonation of a cleft sentence?**A **cleft sentence** is a complex sentence that  puts a particular idea into focus. In oral speech, this focusing is often accompanied by a special intonation.English is very rich in cleft constructions. Here are some types of cleft sentences:* **It-cleft**: *It is Jaime who(that) we are looking for.*
* **Wh-cleft** *What he wanted to buy was a Fiat.*
* **Reversed wh-cleft** *A Fiat is what he wanted to buy.*
* **All-cleft**: *All he wanted to buy was a Fiat.*
* **Inferential cleft**: *It is not that he loves her. It's just that he has a way with her that is different.*
* **There-cleft**: *And then there's a new house he wanted to build.*
* **If-because cleft**: *If he wants to be an actor it's because he wants to be famous.*

*A major area of interest with regard to cleft constructions involves their information structure because the organisation of information structure is tightly linked to the clefts' function as focusing tools used by public speakers to draw attention to certain parts of their message.*Cleft sentences are normally pronounced with a **distinct  falling tone** (➘) on the focus word(s) .                         e.g.: *It is*  (➘)*Jaime who we are*  (➘)*looking for.* |

**Exercise 1**

Read the cleft sentences with the falling tone on the focus word(s).

1. It was a **Fiat** that he wanted tobuy.
2. What he wanted to **buy** was a **Fiat**.
3. A **Fiat** is what he wanted to **buy**.
4. All he wanted to **buy** was a **Fiat**.
5. It is not that he **loves** her. It's just that he has a **way** with her **that** is different.
6. And then there's a new **house** that he wanted to build.
7. If he wants to be an **actor** it's because he wants to be **famous**.
8. It was because he was **ill** that we decided to **return**.
9. It was in **September** that he first found **out** about it.
10. It was with great **reluctance** that Maria accepted the invitation.
11. It was on **foot** that he went there.
12. It was  **greedily**  and **speedily** that Homer Simpson drank his beer.
13. It is to address a far-reaching **problem** that Oxfam is launching this campaign.
14. It could be going home **early** or slacking off at **work** that the boss reacted to.
15. It was because she was so **lonely** all the time that she decided to move out.
16. What they **like** is smoked **salmon**.
17. What we need to **do** is to get new **batteries** for the remote.