Name: ..... **Date:** ..... **Score:** .....

Cleft Sentences: put the focus where you want it

A cleft sentence splits one idea into two parts so that one part stands out.

- It-cleft: *It is / was* + focus + *that / who* …
- What-cleft: *What* + clause + *is / was* …
- Also: *What happened was …*, *The thing that …*, *It was only when / after …*

A. Circle the correct option.

1. It was only when the bill arrived _____ what we had agreed to.
   a) did we realise **b)** that we realised **c)** when did we realise
2. What the report fails to explain _____ the money went.
   a) it is where **b)** that is where **c)** is where
3. It is not _____ I object to, but the way it was announced.
   a) the decision itself **b)** that the decision **c)** what the decision
4. The thing _____ most about the town was how quiet it was.
   a) that struck me **b)** what struck me **c)** struck me
5. What happened was _____ the wrong file to the client.
   a) someone to send **b)** for someone sending **c)** that someone sent
6. Not until much later _____ how lucky we had been.
   a) we grasped **b)** did we grasp **c)** we did grasp

B. Complete the cleft sentences with one word.

1. It wasn't until she resigned _____ people noticed how much she did.
2. _____ he failed to mention was the cost.
3. The person to _____ we owe most is our first teacher.
4. It's not so much the heat _____ the humidity that wears you down.
5. _____ they did was to postpone the vote, not cancel it.

C. Rewrite as a cleft sentence, beginning as shown.

1. I resent being interrupted. (What …)

2. Her honesty impressed the panel. (The thing …)

3. They only discovered the error after the launch. (It was only …)

4. A software fault, not the staff, caused the delay. (It …)

Check your answers online, free: concordhomework.com/c1-cleft-sentences/
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