



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Cleft Sentences in Global Issues

Global Issues | Emphasis and focus | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Complete this sentence: What communities need most is ____.
2	Complete this sentence: It is education that ____.
3	How can writers make one idea sound especially important?
4	Why might cleft sentences be useful in essays or speeches?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Putting the Focus Where It Matters

Global problems can feel too large to solve, but **what communities need most is** practical support that reaches people quickly.

In many places, **it is education that** gives young people more choices. Better schools can reduce inequality and create opportunities for future work.

Charities can help, but **what makes long-term change possible is** cooperation between local people, governments and international organisations.

3. Notice the pattern

Use cleft sentences to give special focus to one idea. They are useful in essays, articles and speeches.

Use	Form / signal	Example
What-cleft	What + clause + be	What communities need most is practical support.
It-cleft	It + be + focus + that/who	It is education that creates opportunity.
Emphasis	focus on one key idea	What matters most is cooperation.
Formal writing	stronger argument	It is local action that often makes change possible.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	Communities need practical support most.	What-cleft	
2	Education creates more opportunities.	It-cleft	
3	Cooperation makes long-term change possible.	What-cleft	
4	Local action often makes change possible.	It-cleft	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Use cleft sentences to emphasise the most important solution to a global issue.
Writing	Write an essay-style paragraph about a global issue using at least two cleft sentences.
Reading	Underline cleft sentences in the context text and identify the focused idea.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	What communities need most are practical support.	
2	It education that creates opportunity.	
3	What makes change possible it is cooperation.	
4	It is local action who makes change possible.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What global issue needs the most attention?
2. What helps communities recover after a crisis?
3. Is it education that creates the most opportunity?
4. What makes international cooperation difficult?

Cleft Sentences in Global Issues

4. Build accurate sentences

1. What communities need most is practical support.
2. It is education that creates more opportunities.
3. What makes long-term change possible is cooperation.
4. It is local action that often makes change possible.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. What communities need most is practical support.
2. It is education that creates opportunity.
3. What makes change possible is cooperation.
4. It is local action that makes change possible.

Notes for checking

1. What-cleft: What + clause + be - What communities need most is practical support.
2. It-cleft: It + be + focus + that/who - It is education that creates opportunity.
3. Emphasis: focus on one key idea - What matters most is cooperation.
4. Formal writing: stronger argument - It is local action that often makes change possible.