

8.5 Grammar

Emphasis – cleft sentences and inversion

I can use a range of sentence structures to express emphasis.

- 1 **CD-3.29 MP3-126** Read and listen to a conversation between two friends. Why does Will get angry?

Will: I've been watching a programme about extreme weather events – interesting but very scary! **What they did was show** the effects of some recent floods where people had lost absolutely everything. **Rarely have I seen** such devastating scenes. **What I find shocking is that** some people still believe that humans have nothing to do with climate change.

Emma: I don't think you can blame humans.

Will: What? **It's those kind of comments that** really annoy me. How can you say that?

Emma: **All I'm saying is that** there's no link between carbon emissions and climate change. **What's happened is that** scientists have invented global warming so they can get more funding.

Will: Are you serious? **Not only are you** making ridiculous accusations, **but** you don't even know the basic facts! Of course it's carbon emissions that are to blame for global warming!

- 2 Read and complete the GRAMMAR FOCUS with the words in blue in the conversation.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Emphasis

You can emphasise a piece of information in a sentence in a number of different ways:

- Cleft sentences: 'divide' a sentence by adding a clause to emphasise key information

What's 'happened is (that) scientists have invented ... (= Scientists have invented ...)

What they² was (to) show the effects of ... (= They showed the effects of ...)

³ **I find shocking is (that)** ... (= I find it shocking (that) ...)

⁴ **those kind of comments that** ... (= Those kind of comments ...)

⁵ **I'm saying is (that)** ... (= I'm just saying (that) ...)

- Inversion: negative expression (*never, rarely, not only*, etc.) + auxiliary verb + subject (formal)

⁶ **have I seen** ... (= I have rarely seen ...)

⁷ **are you** making ridiculous accusations, **but** you don't even know the basic facts. (= You are making ... and you don't even know ...)

- 3 Rewrite the sentences using structures from the GRAMMAR FOCUS and the word in capitals.

- Will and Emma had an argument. **HAPPENED**
What happened was (that) Will and Emma had an argument.
- Will (not Emma) started talking about climate change. **IT**
- Will told Emma how strongly he felt. **DID**
- Emma only suggested that you couldn't blame humans. **ALL**
- Will couldn't believe Emma's views on scientists. **WHAT**
- Will hadn't ever heard such ridiculous accusations. **NEVER**

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- 4 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. There are two extra words.

all are do does is it's has what

- _____ the gases from industrialisation that have caused the greenhouse effect.
 - What scientists _____ is analyse air that's 800,000 years old trapped under the ice in Antarctica.
 - Never _____ there been more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than there is now.
 - _____ happened was that average temperatures rose by one degree Celsius last century.
 - Not only _____ we observing a rise in sea levels, but also many extreme weather events.
 - If we don't act now, _____ we're doing is creating problems for future generations.
- 5 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences. Begin with the underlined words.
- worry about most / I / is / pollution / what
 - I / money / my birthday / all / for / want / is
 - it gets dark so early / what / winter / I / about / that / hate / is
 - most / the food / what / I / my country / about / love / is
 - who / in our house / the cooking / my father / does / it's
 - to do / what / buy a laptop / is / want / I
 - my clothes / to any of my friends / under no circumstances / lend / would / I
- 6 In pairs, tick the sentences in Exercise 5 that are true for you. Write more true sentences beginning with the underlined words.

What I worry about most is ...

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