

Name _____

“Cleft” means divided. **Cleft sentences** can be used to emphasize a particular part of a sentence. In a cleft sentence, one element of the sentence is shifted from its normal place in the sentence into a separate clause. The emphasis in the sentence changes in a cleft sentence, depending on what is shifted.

NORMAL SENTENCE: Anne baked cookies for the school store last week.

CLEFT SENTENCE: It was Anne who baked cookies for the school store last week.

It was cookies that Anne baked for the school store last week.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentence below. Rewrite the sentence four times as a cleft sentence, each time shifting the emphasis onto a different aspect of the sentence.

Jim always rides his bicycle because he doesn't like to walk.

1.

2.

3.

4.

ANSWERS

1. It's Jim who always rides his bicycle because he doesn't like to walk.
2. It's a bicycle Jim always rides because he doesn't like to walk.
3. It's because he doesn't like to walk that Jim always rides his bicycle.
4. It's always that Jim rides his bicycle because he doesn't like to walk.