

45 Shifting focus

You can add emphasis to part of a sentence in English by splitting it into two clauses. This allows you to focus attention on the new or important information.

 **New language** Focusing with clauses

 **Aa Vocabulary** Phrases for emphasis

 **New skill** Shifting focus

45.1 KEY LANGUAGE FOCUSING WITH "WHAT" CLAUSES

You can add "what" with the verb "be" to a simple statement to make it more emphatic. This structure is often used with verbs expressing emotions, such as "love," "hate," "like," and "want."

Would you like to go to a movie?



No, thanks. **What I really want **is** to go to bed early.**

Add "what" to the start of the sentence.

The information that you want to focus on is put outside the "what" clause.



This has more emphasis than "I really want to go to bed early."

45.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES FOCUSING WITH "WHAT" CLAUSES

What we hated **was** the bad service. **What** I like here **is** the weather.

What they loved the most **were** the museums.



45.3 MATCH THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS

What annoyed him the most was

1 What I would really appreciate is

2 What we really need are

3 What I love about this city is

4 What businesses really hate is

some legal advice.

when people leave bad reviews online.

more volunteers to help during the week.

the lack of communication.

the nightlife and the culture.



45.4 KEY LANGUAGE FOCUSING WITH A NOUN

If the subject of the sentence cannot be replaced with "what" (for example, people, places, or times) you can use a general noun that has a similar meaning.



I've been to many countries.
The place I most enjoyed visiting was Nepal.



I've read about some great people.
The woman I respect the most is Marie Curie.



I don't know why the show was canceled.
The reason they gave was not good enough.



I have lots of fun memories.
The evening I most remember is my first concert.



45.5 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE NOUNS IN THE PANEL



The city I'd most like to visit is Kyoto in Japan for its amazing gardens.



The justification she gave for being late for work was not good enough.



The period in history that fascinates me most is the Jurassic period.



A natural wonder that we'd really love to visit is Ha Long Bay in Vietnam.



One moment I'll never forget is when my first grandchild was born.



The thing I don't understand is why the instructions are so complicated.

natural wonder

justification

period

moment

thing

city



45.6 KEY LANGUAGE FOCUSING WITH "IT" CLAUSES

You can also emphasize part of a sentence by adding "it is" or "it was" and "that."



You've met my friend John before, haven't you?

This has more emphasis than "No, I met your friend Michael."

Add "that" before the main verb.

No, **it was** your friend Michael **that** I met.

Add "it is" or "it was" before the noun phrase.

Main verb moves to the end.



45.7 FURTHER EXAMPLES FOCUSING WITH "IT" CLAUSES

The second clause is most commonly introduced by "that," but "which" or "who" (and, less formally, "when" and "where") can also be used.

It is the engine that I need to replace.

It was the doctor who I needed to call.

It was 1998 when I last saw my cousins.



45.8 RESPOND TO THE AUDIO OUT LOUD, USING FOCUSING CLAUSES

Did your father teach you how to play the electric guitar?

No, it was my brother who taught me.



1 Did you say that you want to visit Hong Kong?

Actually, I most want to visit Istanbul.



2 Did you start learning English quite recently?

Actually, a while ago I started.



3 Would you say that you admire Bill Gates the most?

No, I most admire Albert Einstein.





45.9 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



A parenting expert is giving a radio interview about social networks and digital parenting skills.

The expert says it's easy to keep up-to-date with digital trends.

True False

- 1 She says that there is a lot of online help for parents. True False
- 2 She encourages parents to set up their own social networking accounts. True False
- 3 She says young people should only think carefully about what they post publicly. True False
- 4 It is quite easy to change or delete your digital footprint. True False
- 5 The CEO said people might have to change their names in the future. True False

45 ✓ CHECKLIST

Focusing with clauses

Phrases for emphasis

Shifting focus

⟳ REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 42–45

NEW LANGUAGE	SAMPLE SENTENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
REPORTING WITH PASSIVES	It has been reported that three sailors have disappeared.	<input type="checkbox"/>	42.1
MODALS IN THE PASSIVE	Barbara should be told the exciting news.	<input type="checkbox"/>	42.3
HEDGING	It is arguably the strangest statue around. The prisoners seem to have vanished.	<input type="checkbox"/>	43.1, 43.3
INVERSION AFTER NEGATIVE ADVERBIALS	Not only is she a famous singer, but she's also a very good actor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	44.1
INVERSION AFTER TIME ADVERBIALS	No sooner had Tina released an album than she starred in her first movie.	<input type="checkbox"/>	44.5
FOCUSING WITH "WHAT" CLAUSES AND NOUNS	What I really want is to go to bed early. The place I most enjoyed visiting was Nepal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	45.1, 45.4
FOCUSING WITH "IT" CLAUSES	No, it was your friend Michael that I met.	<input type="checkbox"/>	45.6