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Wh-Cleft Sentences: Standard, Reversed, and Action Focus

Hard | C1 | Advanced | Clause | Complex sentence | Infinitive | Inversion | Pronoun | Relative clause | Sentence | Subject | Verb | Verb tense | Word order

1. Choose the correct phrase to complete the detective's dramatic reveal.

The fingerprints were wiped clean, but what _____ that the security cameras had been disabled exactly two minutes before the heist.

Select one.

A) really puzzled the investigators was
B) really puzzled the investigators were
C) did really puzzle the investigators is
D) had really puzzled the investigators are

2. Help the restaurant manager complete the incident report by choosing the grammatically correct option for each gap.

After turning the expensive duck into literal charcoal, _____ the panicked chef actually did _____ _____ a dozen pizzas for the food critics.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) what
B) which
C) that

Blank 2

A) was
B) were
C) been

Blank 3

A) order
B) ordered
C) ordering

3. Help Juliet's best friend describe the tragic first date by choosing the correct word for each blank.

Romeo thought he was being incredibly romantic. However, what he actually _____ was _____ hot soup all over Juliet's brand-new dress. What she really _____ at that exact moment was a towel, not a dramatically recited poem!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) does
B) did
C) doing

Blank 2

A) spilled
B) spill
C) to spilling

Blank 3

A) wants
B) wanted
C) wanting

4. Complete the exhausted secret agent's dramatic resignation speech. Select ALL the sentences that correctly and grammatically express their ultimate desire.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** All I ever wanted was to retire to a quiet island.
- **B)** What I have always wanted is to retire to a quiet island.
- **C)** All what I want is to retire to a quiet island.
- **D)** The only thing what I want is to retire to a quiet island.
- **E)** What I want are to retire to a quiet island.

5. Help the office manager finish his dramatic email to the lunch thief by choosing the correct word for each blank.

You claim it was an innocent mistake. However, what you _____ to check was the security camera hidden above the microwave. A formal, written apology is _____ the HR department expects from you by 5 PM. Furthermore, _____ you actually achieved today was proving that you cannot be trusted with other people's yogurts!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** forget
- **B)** forgot
- **C)** forgetting

Blank 2

- **A)** which
- **B)** what
- **C)** how

Blank 3

- **A)** whole
- **B)** all
- **C)** every

6. Complete the supervillain's morning rant to his minions by selecting the correct word for each gap.

"A decent cup of coffee is _____ I really need to conquer the world! _____ frustrates me most _____ the terrible espresso machine in this evil lair."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** what
- **B)** that
- **C)** which

Blank 2

- **A)** What
- **B)** That
- **C)** Which

Blank 3

- **A)** is
- **B)** are
- **C)** being

7. Help the frustrated roommate vent about a culinary catastrophe! Select ALL the grammatically correct dramatic statements that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** What he did was set the kitchen on fire.
- **B)** What he did was to set the kitchen on fire.
- **C)** What he did was setting the kitchen on fire.
- **D)** What did he do was set the kitchen on fire.
- **E)** What he did set the kitchen on fire.

8. Select the grammatically correct phrase to complete the political journalist's article.

The public assumed the mayor resigned due to the recent embezzlement rumors. However, a sudden loss of support from her biggest donors _____ .

Select one.

A) what actually prompted her sudden exit was
B) was that actually prompted her sudden exit
C) was what actually prompted her sudden exit
D) is what did her sudden exit actually prompt

9. The brilliant detective has gathered all the suspects in the drawing room for the grand reveal. Select ALL the grammatically correct ways she can structure her dramatic accusation.

Select all that apply.

A) What the butler hid in the grandfather clock was the diamond.
B) The diamond is what the butler hid in the grandfather clock.
C) What did the butler hide in the grandfather clock was the diamond.
D) The diamond is the thing what the butler hid in the grandfather clock.
E) What the butler hid in the grandfather clock were the diamond.