where "-" means pop:

it was - the best - of times - - - it was - the - -

1. "It" gets added in the stack initially, next the word "was" gets added above the previous word.
2. As, "-" means pop, "was" gets removed, so, now, only "it" is there.
3. Best
4. The
5. It
6. -
7. Times
8. Of
9. The
10. It
11. -
12. -
13. -
14. Was
15. It
16. It
17. -
18. The
19. It
20.   It
21. -
22. -
23. It
24. So, finally, the word "it" remained.