

# UNIT 8

# Emphasis - Inversion

## Emphasis



It was Steven Spielberg who/that directed 'E.T.' and 'Jurassic Park.'

We can put emphasis on certain words or parts of a sentence with:

◆ **It is/was ... who/which/that**

- e.g. a) *Sheila is planting flowers in the garden.*  
**It is Sheila who/that** is planting flowers in the garden. (emphasis on the subject = Sheila)
- b) *Sheila is planting flowers in the garden.*  
**It is flowers that** Sheila is planting in the garden. (emphasis on the object = flowers)
- c) *Sheila is planting flowers in the garden.*  
**It is in the garden that** Sheila is planting flowers. (emphasis on the adverbial phrase = in the garden)
- d) *The dog's barking didn't wake me up, the alarm clock did.*  
**It wasn't the dog's barking which/that** woke me up, it was the alarm clock.

**Note:** We use **who, which** or **that** to put emphasis on the subject. We normally use **that** to put emphasis on the object or the adverbial phrase.

◆ **All (that) = the only thing**

- e.g. *All (that) she cares about is money.*  
**All (that) he did was** call me to say goodbye.

◆ **What**

- e.g. a) *Jogging keeps me in shape. (subject)*  
**What** keeps me in shape is jogging.  
OR *Jogging is what keeps me in shape.*
- b) *I need a holiday. (object)*  
**What** I need is a holiday.  
OR *A holiday is what I need.*

◆ **What ... do (to put emphasis on verbs)**

- e.g. a) *Sharon designs clothes.*  
**What Sharon does** is (to) design clothes.

- b) *Greg updated the files.*  
**What Greg did** was (to) update the files.

- ◆ **Question word + ever** (usually shows surprise)  
e.g. *Who ever* told you I was getting married?  
*Where ever* did you find this old map?  
**Which and whose** are not used in this case.  
e.g. *Whose idea* was it? (NOT: ~~Whose ever idea...~~)

**Note:** Question words + ever (except for why) can be written as one word. e.g. *Whoever* told you ...?

We also use ever to put emphasis on negative sentences.

- e.g. *Nobody ever* explained this to me.  
*I haven't seen this man ever* before.

- ◆ We use **do/does/did + bare infinitive** in the present simple, past simple or the imperative to give emphasis.

- e.g. a) *She believes* in supernatural powers.  
*She does believe* in supernatural powers.
- b) *He went* to the reception.  
*He did go* to the reception.
- c) *Stay* a little longer.  
*Do stay* a little longer.

1

**Rewrite these first aid instructions using what, as in the example.**

- 1 You should remember to stay calm.  
*...What you should remember is to stay calm....*
- 2 You need to act quickly.  
.....
- 3 You have to call an ambulance.  
.....
- 4 You must concentrate on helping the victims.  
.....
- 5 You need to check that the injury is not serious.  
.....
- 6 You should not allow anyone to move the injured people.  
.....
- 7 You should remember to keep the victims warm.  
.....
- 8 You have to keep the injured people calm.  
.....

2

**Change the sentences, as in the example.**

- 1 I don't need a pencil. I need a pen.  
*...It's not a pencil I need, it's a pen....*
- 2 Sam isn't a policeman. Daniel is.  
.....

- 3 I don't like carrots, I like potatoes.  
.....
- 4 He's not eating sweets, he's eating fruit.  
.....
- 5 We didn't watch a film, we watched a play.  
.....
- 6 I don't speak French, I speak German.  
.....
- 7 They don't want a house, they want a flat.  
.....
- 8 I didn't break a window, I broke a mirror.  
.....

**3 Rewrite the sentences in all possible ways, as in the example.**

- 1 Jane moved to Italy in 1986.  
...*It was Jane who/that moved to Italy in 1986...*  
...*It was Italy that Jane moved to in 1986...*  
...*It was in 1986 that Jane moved to Italy...*
- 2 Paul sold his old car last week.
- 3 Sarah lost her keys this morning.
- 4 David made dinner last night.
- 5 Simon published his latest novel last month.
- 6 I met a film star last week.
- 7 Alan repaired the fence this afternoon.
- 8 Catherine found a kitten on Monday.

**4 Read the information, then rewrite it emphasising the words in bold.**



- 1 **Victor Fleming** directed 'Gone With the Wind.'  
...*It was Victor Fleming who/that directed 'Gone With the Wind.'*...
- 2 **Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh** played the lead parts.  
.....
- 3 **Margaret Mitchell** wrote the original novel.  
.....
- 4 The film was released in **1939**.  
.....
- 5 The film was first shown in **Atlanta**.  
.....
- 6 The film became a huge success **soon after its release**.  
.....
- 7 The film won **nine** Oscars in 1940.  
.....

**5 Rewrite the sentences putting emphasis on the highlighted words.**

- 1 **Lydia** stole the papers from the office.  
...*It was Lydia who/that stole the papers from the office...*
- 2 **Alison** made the bridesmaids' dresses.  
.....
- 3 **Where** did you meet Jason?  
.....
- 4 **Who** gave you this expensive necklace?  
.....
- 5 Are you going to buy **that cake** for the party?  
.....
- 6 **Steve** decorated the living room.  
.....
- 7 **What** made you react like this?  
.....
- 8 **Why** did you phone the police?  
.....
- 9 **Why don't** you remember my birthday?  
.....
- 10 We received the letter **this morning**.  
.....

**6 Rewrite the sentences using emphatic constructions, starting with the words given.**

- 1 John set off the fire alarm.  
It was ...*John who/that set off the fire alarm...*
- 2 Come in!  
Do .....
- 3 Why did they close the shop?  
Why ever .....
- 4 She needs a pay rise.  
What .....
- 5 She promised to call him.  
She did .....
- 6 When did you get married?  
When was .....
- 7 What have you done?  
Whatever .....
- 8 I told you to be quiet.  
I did .....
- 9 Annie opened the windows.  
It was .....

**7 Complete the sentences, using your own ideas.**

- 1 All I want is ...*to be happy...*
- 2 What I would like is .....
- 3 What I really need is .....
- 4 What I enjoy is .....
- 5 What I hate is .....
- 6 What I don't understand is .....
- 7 What I would like to know is .....
- 8 What I like most is .....

# UNIT 8 Emphasis - Inversion

## Inversion



**No sooner had they arrived at the station than the train pulled in.**

There are two ways to invert the subject and the verb.

### 1) **be/have/modal/auxiliary verb + subject + main verb**

It is used in the following cases:

- in questions.  
e.g. *Is Peter taking an exam today?*
- after the following words or expressions, when they come at the beginning of a sentence.

Seldom	Only in this way
Rarely	Only then
Little	Hardly (ever) ... when
Barely	No sooner ... than
Nowhere (else)	Not only ... but (also)
Never (before)	Not until/till
Not (even) once	In no way
On no account	In/Under no circumstances
Only by	Not since, etc.

e.g. **Never (before) have I seen** such a beautiful woman.

**Not only did they make** a donation **but they (also) promised** to build a shelter for the homeless.

**Seldom do we go out** since the baby was born.

**But: We seldom go out** since the baby was born. (There is no inversion because the word *seldom* does not come at the beginning of the sentence.)

**Note:** When the expressions *only after*, *only by*, *only if*, *only when*, *not until/till* come at the beginning of a sentence, the inversion is in the main clause.

e.g. **Only after she started working was she able to** save some money.

**Only if you follow my advice will you** succeed.

- with **so, neither, nor, as** to express agreement.  
e.g. 'I love chocolate ice cream.' **So do I.** (We use 'so' to agree with an affirmative statement.)  
'I can't stand violent films.'  
**Neither/Nor can I.** (We use 'neither/nor' to agree with a negative statement.)  
She was a talented musician, **as was her sister** / **and so was her sister.**
- with **should, were, had** when they come at the beginning of an if-clause instead of 'if'.  
e.g. Type 1: **Should he call**, tell him I'm out.  
(= If he should call ...)  
Type 2: **Were I you**, I wouldn't trust her.  
(= If I were you ...)  
Type 3: **Had I been told**, I would have offered my help.  
(= If I had been told ...)

### 2) **main verb + subject**

It is used in the following cases:

- after verbs of movement or adverbial expressions of place when they come at the beginning of a sentence.

e.g. **Outside the house was** a sports car.  
**On the sofa sat** an old man.  
**Here comes** the bride.  
**There goes** the bus.

If the subject is a pronoun, there is no inversion.

*Here she comes.* (NOT: ~~Here comes she.~~)  
*Up you get.* (NOT: ~~Up get you.~~)

- in direct speech when the subject of the introductory verb is a noun.

e.g. 'I don't like this hotel,' **said Henry.**  
(OR: ... Henry said.)  
'I'll call you a taxi,' **said the doorman.**  
(OR: ... the doorman said.)

**But:** 'What can I do for you?' **she asked.**  
(NOT: ... ~~asked she.~~ because the subject of the introductory verb is a pronoun.)

8

Fill in the gaps, as in the example.

- 'I have a terrible cold.'  
'So...**do I**... I feel really bad.'
- 'I didn't go to the party last night.'  
'Nor ..... I stayed at home instead.'
- 'We went shopping yesterday.'  
'So ..... We bought lots of things.'
- 'I've got some good news!'  
'So ..... I've got a new job!'

- 5 'I didn't win a prize.'  
'Nor ..... I was very disappointed.'
- 6 'I'll send Kim a card.'  
'So ..... I'll buy one tomorrow.'
- 7 'I went skiing last year.'  
'So ..... I had a lovely time.'
- 8 'We're not going on holiday this year.'  
'Neither ..... We can't afford it.'
- 9 'I can play the guitar.'  
'So ..... but not very well.'
- 10 'I'm not going to work tomorrow.'  
'Neither ..... My boss has given me the day off.'

- 10 The police didn't know that the man was a criminal.  
Little .....
- 11 I haven't been to the beach since last summer.  
Not since .....
- 12 If I had known about the party, I would have gone.  
Had .....
- 13 We haven't had such a wonderful time anywhere else.  
Nowhere .....
- 14 If I were you, I would look for a new job.  
Were .....
- 15 He had barely entered the office when the manager called him.  
Barely .....

**9 Rewrite the sentences, beginning with the words in bold.**

- 1 The rain came **down**.  
...*Down came the rain*...
- 2 The birds flew **away**.  
.....
- 3 My house is **at the end of the road**.  
.....
- 4 The actors came **onto the stage**.  
.....
- 5 The aeroplane rose **up into the sky**.  
.....
- 6 The Grand Hotel stands **at the foot of the mountain**.  
.....
- 7 The policeman walked **down the street**.  
.....
- 8 The window cleaner climbed **up the ladder**.  
.....

**10 Rewrite the sentences using the words/phrases given.**

- 1 I have seldom eaten at such an expensive restaurant.  
Seldom ...*have I eaten at such an expensive restaurant*...
- 2 She had no sooner fallen asleep than the telephone rang.  
No sooner .....
- 3 We not only got lost, but our car broke down.  
Not only .....
- 4 I have never heard such a terrible story before.  
Never before .....
- 5 We realised only then that the jewels had been stolen.  
Only then .....
- 6 Business has rarely been so good.  
Rarely .....
- 7 The boss has not once given him a bonus.  
Not once .....
- 8 You should not enter this room under any circumstances.  
Under no circumstances .....
- 9 I got to know Peter only after meeting him several times.  
Only after .....

**11 Chris Young is a fashion designer. He is talking to his staff about keeping the designs for his next show a secret. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**



Under no circumstances 1) ...*should you tell*... (you/should/tell) anyone about the plans for the show next week and in no way 2) ..... (you/must/give) our competitors any clues about our designs. Not until the day after the fashion show 3) ..... (you/will/be able to) talk to reporters about the clothes. Only in this way 4) ..... (the show/will/be) a success. If you all follow these orders, not only 5) ..... (you/will/get) a large bonus after the show, but you will also be given some time off.

**12 Fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.**

- 1 Never ...*before had she seen*... such a beautiful dress.
- 2 No sooner ..... than there was a knock at the door.
- 3 Only by ..... did we finish the report on time.
- 4 On no account ..... arrive late on Monday morning.
- 5 Not only ..... my wallet, but my watch was missing, too.
- 6 Only when ..... did I realise I had been asleep.
- 7 Not since I was young ..... such an enjoyable day.
- 8 Under no circumstances ..... be informed of this agreement.