

# Inversion: adding emphasis

We can add emphasis to a sentence by changing the formal word order of a sentence (inversion)  
The sentence sounds more formal and is often used in written/formal English.  
The structure of the sentence can be given like this:



The most common “negative” words/expressions are

**Not only, Not until, No sooner...than, Never, Hardly/Scarcely ... when, Rarely, Only when, Under no circumstances, In no way**

Compare:

| Normal sentence   | Inverted Sentence /emphasis   |
|---|---|
| As soon as the teacher left the classroom, the students started shouting. | No sooner ..... the classroom than the children started shouting                |
| We had just started playing tennis when it began to rain heavily.         | Hardly ..... playing tennis when it began to rain heavily.                      |
| I will never speak to her again.  | Never ..... to her again.   |
| The workers will not end the strike until their requests are satisfied.   | Not until their requests are satisfied, <u>will the workers end</u> the strike. |
| You rarely meet such a stubborn man!                                      | Rarely ..... such a stubborn man!   |
| You should leave the office before 5 p.m. under no circumstances.         | Under no circumstances ..... the office before 5 p.m.                           |

Now paraphrase the sentences using the inversion

1. The meeting started only when all the participants had arrived.

Only when

2. He shouted at her and he smashed the window.

Not only

3. You rarely meet such polite people nowadays.

Rarely

4. The party had just started when the lights went out.

Hardly

5. Fruit is not only delicious, it is full of vitamins.

Not only