
Why do we make inversion?

- For emphasis
- To make the sentence more dramatic
- In literary or formal language (especially negative sentences)

Type of Inversion

1. Conditional Sentence / If clause Inversion

1.1 If Clause type 1

If + Subject +, Subject +
=

- If you need a hand, I will be more than happy to help you.
....., I will be more than happy to help you.
- If you hear anything, please let me know.
....., please let me know.

1.2 If Clause type 2

If + Subject +, Subject +
=

- If I were you, I think I would study more for your exam tomorrow.
....., I think I would study more for your exam tomorrow.
- If John played tennis, he would win the competition.

....., he would win the competition.

1.3 If Clause type 3

If + Subject +, Subject +

=

- If she had not helped me, I would have been in bad trouble.

....., I would have been in bad trouble.

- If the weather had been nice, we would have finished painting the walls.

....., we would have finished painting the walls.

Exercise 1: If clause inversion. Rewrite the given sentences.

1. If Sam had enough money, he would change his car.

.....

2. If he had lent me some money, I could have bought that house.

.....

3. If you come early, we may have breakfast.

.....

2. Negative Inversion

Negative words.

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ● Never / Rarely / Hardly ever / Seldom | ● Little |
| ● Not often | ● At no time |
| ● Hardly...when... | ● Not once |
| ● No sooner...than... | ● Not (+ an object) |

- On no account
- On no condition
- Under no circumstances
- In no case

1> I had hardly arrived home when my phone rang.

.....

2> They had barely won the match when the coach had a heart attack.

.....

3> The company had no sooner launched a new product than it went bankrupt.

.....

3. So/ Such Inversion

Structure:

1> He was so excited that he could hardly sleep.

.....

2> She performed it so well that many said that it was perfect.

.....

3> He became so angry that he stormed out of the room.

.....

4. Inversion after "So, Neither, Nor"

We use this to express "Agreement"

1> Paul likes documentaries and

2> Vivian went to the cinema and

3> They didn't go to the lecture and

4> You haven't finished your lunch and

5> A: *I am going home.* B:

6> A: *I don't like meat.* B:

5. Inversion after "Only..."

Only after/ Only when

Only if / Only by + Inversion in the Main Clause

Not until

1> You can only play after lunch.

.....

2> Bats leave their cave only at night.

.....

3> I will go there only if you come with me.

.....

4> we'd all arrived home Only when I felt calm.

.....

5> after I'd only seen her flat I understood her.

.....

Fill in the blanks

- Not until I saw John with my own eyes did I really believe he was safe.
- Not since Lucy left college, such a wonderful time. [she, had had]
- Only after I'd seen her flat why she wanted to live there. [I , understood]
- Only by studying hard , their exams. [They, will pass]
- Only when we'd all arrived home calm. [I , felt]

Exercise1: Rewrite the given sentences.

1.The matter could be explained in no other way.

In.....

2. We had hardly started when it began to rain.

Hardly

3. I have seldom heard such beautiful singing.

Seldom.....

4. I shall never forget your kindness.

Never.....

5.The gang didn't know that the police had them under surveillance.

Little.....

Exercise 2: Choose the best answer.

1. _____ should children be allowed to drive.

A. no sooner

B. under no circumstances

2. _____ after months of planning were they ready for the conference.

A. rarely

B. only

3. _____ had I left than I heard them laughing.

A. no sooner

B. only when

4. Only _____ can we start the party.

A. when Jane has arrived

B. when has Jane arrived

5. _____ who borrowed the money.

A. Max it was

B. It was Max

6. What _____ is simply not true.

A. are you saying

B. you are saying

7. Only by working three jobs _____ able to support his large family.

- A. he was
- B. he is
- C. he's being
- D. was he

8. The boss didn't know what to do, _____ the rest of us.

- A. so did
- B. Either
- C. Neither
- D. nor did

9. _____ you see Frank at the conference, give him my regards.

- Should
- B. Would
- C. Might
- D. Could

10. _____ the medicine than she began to feel better.

- A. Not until she swallowed
- B. Hardly did she swallow
- C. No sooner had she swallowed
- D. Having swallowed

11. Only by speaking more _____ improve your fluency in English.

- A. you are able to
- B. is it possible to
- C. does
- D. will it