

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.

- You should remember to stay calm.
 ...*What you should remember is to stay calm.*...
- You need to act quickly.

- You have to call an ambulance.

- You must concentrate on helping the victims.

- You need to check that the injury is not serious.

- You should not allow anyone to move the injured people.

- You should remember to keep the victims warm.

- You have to keep the injured people calm.

2

Change the sentences, as in the example.

- I don't need a pencil, I need a pen.
 ...*It's not a pencil I need, it's a pen.*...
- 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.'

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
.....

- 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
.....

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.