UNIT 19

Grammar

Complex sentences

Inversions with negative adverbial words and phrases

hardly (… when)	***Hardly*** *had the new law been introduced* ***when*** *the mistake was realised.*
scarcely (… when)	***Scarcely*** *had I opened the front door* ***when*** *I heard a noise from the kitchen.*
barely (… when)	***Barely*** *had we solved one problem* ***when*** *another one arose.*
no sooner (… than)	***No sooner*** *had the alarm gone off* ***than*** *the police arrived.*
only	***Only*** *in an emergency should you dial 999.*
only after	***Only after*** *I had checked that the burglars had left did I call the police.*
only when	***Only when*** *we agree what measures are needed will we be able to solve the problem.*
not until	***Not until*** *the next election will we know how the public feel about this news.*
at no time/point/stage	***At no point*** *did I realise that he was the Prime Minister.*
in no way	***In no way*** *does this decision represent a change in government policy.*
little	***Little*** *did Ralph know that the burglar was still inside his house.*
never	***Never*** *have I heard such a ridiculous suggestion!*
not	***Not*** *one vote did the proposal receive.*
not only (… but also/too)	***Not only*** *has this government failed* ***but*** *it has* ***also*** *stolen ideas from other parties.*
on no account	***On no account*** *should you try to tackle a burglar yourself.*
rarely	***Rarely*** *do the newspapers present a balanced view of current events.*
seldom	***Seldom*** *do people leaving prison stay out of trouble.*
under no circumstances	***Under no circumstances*** *will we accept an increase in working hours.*

Watch out!

With *not until* and *only (when/after)*, you have to be careful to invert the verb and subject in the main clause.

✓ ***Not until / Only when*** *this government realises what a mistake it is making will things change.*

Inversions with adverbial expressions of place (+ verb of movement/position)

here	***Here*** *comes the Minister now.*
there	***There*** *stood the next king of England.*
adverbial phrases	***At the top of society*** *are the aristocracy.*
	Beside the Town Hall *stood the public library.*
	In this prison *are housed some of the most dangerous criminals.*
	On the corner of the street *sat a homeless man.*
participle phrases	***Running down the road*** *was a young man with a woman's handbag under his arm.*

Other inversions

in short answers using *so, neither* and *nor*	*'I voted for Smith.'* *'Did you?* ***So did I.'***	*'I don't believe a word this government says.'* *'No,* ***neither do I.'***
after *as, than, so* and *such*	*I am very worried about bullying in the school,* ***as*** *are a lot of the parents.* *The police in this area make more arrests* ***than*** *do officers in other parts of the country.* ***So*** *rare is burglary here that many people don't bother to lock their doors.* ***Such*** *public interest was there in the story that it was on the front pages of the newspapers.*	
in conditional sentences (see Unit 11)	***Were*** *the Foreign Secretary to resign, it would cause serious problems for the Prime Minister.* ***Should*** *the Foreign Secretary resign, it would cause serious problems for the Prime Minister.* ***Had*** *I* ***known*** *about the crime problem, I would never have moved here.*	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Cleft sentences

all (that)	***All that*** *Keith wanted was to get his money back.* *To get his money back was* ***all that*** *Keith wanted.*
It is/was … who/which/that	***It was*** *Carol* ***who/that*** *called the police.*
the … thing	***The first thing*** *is to check to see what's missing.* *To check to see what's missing is* ***the first thing****.*
the day/etc when/that *the day/etc on/in/at which*	***The year when*** *this government came to power was 2006.* *2006 was* ***the year when*** *this government came to power.* *2006 was* ***the year in which*** *this government came to power.*
the person who/that	***The person who*** *stole the money was Thomas.* *Thomas was* ***the person who*** *stole the money.*
the place where	***The place where*** *the Queen stays in Scotland is Balmoral Castle.* *Balmoral Castle is* ***the place where*** *the Queen stays in Scotland.*
the reason (why)	***The reason (why)*** *I joined this political party was to make a difference.* *To make a difference was* ***the reason (why)*** *I joined this political party.*
the thing that	***The thing that*** *annoys me is the boss's attitude.* *The boss's attitude is* ***the thing that*** *annoys me.*
what	***What*** *annoys me is the boss's attitude.* *The boss's attitude is* ***what*** *annoys me.*
what … do/did	***What*** *Churchill* ***did*** *was bring people together.*
what happens/happened is/was …	***What happened was*** *that a witness saw the man leave the house.*

Watch out!

With *it is/was …* in cleft sentences, there are two possibilities when the subject is a pronoun. They differ in formality.
✓ *It was* ***I who*** *stole the money.* (formal)
✓ *It was* ***me that*** *stole the money.* (informal)

so/such/too/enough

so	*It all happened* ***so*** *quickly* ***that*** *I didn't have time to see the man's face.* *This problem has gone on for* ***so*** *long* ***that*** *I don't think they'll ever find a solution.* *It was* ***so*** *terrible a crime* ***that*** *the judge sentenced him to life in prison.* *There is* ***so*** *much crime around here* ***that*** *I'm thinking of moving.*
such	*This problem has gone on for* ***such*** *a long time* ***that*** *I don't think they'll ever find a solution.* *It was* ***such*** *a terrible crime* ***that*** *the judge sentenced him to life in prison.* *There is* ***such*** *a lot of crime around here* ***that*** *I'm thinking of moving.*
too	*I had* ***too*** *little time* ***to*** *get a good look at his face.* *This problem seems to be* ***too*** *difficult* ***for*** *them* ***to*** *solve.* *The police responded* ***too*** *slowly* ***to*** *have any chance of catching the burglar.*
enough	*There just aren't* ***enough*** *police officers on the streets.* *The police weren't quick* ***enough to*** *catch the burglar.* *The police didn't respond quickly* ***enough to*** *catch the burglar.*

Watch out!

- *So* and *such* can also be used in various ways without a *that* clause.
  ✓ *There's* ***so*** *much crime around here these days.* ✓ *Politics is* ***so*** *boring!* ✓ *You're* ***such*** *a bully!*
- We only use *too* to describe something that is more than necessary and which has a negative effect. It is not the same as *very, really, extremely, etc.*
- It is not necessary to add an extra object in sentences such as the following:
  ✗ ~~*This problem seems to be too difficult for them to solve* ***it***.~~
- *Enough* usually comes before nouns and after adjectives and adverbs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A **If a phrase in bold is correct, put a tick. If it is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.**

1 Hardly **I had sat down** when the doorbell rang. .....
2 Scarcely **had Julian finished** writing when the teacher told the students to put their pens down.
.....
3 We had barely set off on our journey when **the kids started** asking when we would get there.
.....
4 No sooner **the government changes** the tax laws than businesses find a way around them.
.....
5 Scarcely **they had finished** painting the house when it started to rain. .....
6 Hardly **the new computer system had been installed** when it started to go wrong.
.....
7 It's true that no sooner **we had started** eating than we realised we had forgotten the potatoes.
.....
8 Barely had the politician started to speak when **began the crowd** to boo.
.....
9 Hardly **the new park was finished** when vandals destroyed the flowerbeds.
.....
10 Scarcely **Keith had arrived** in Argentina when he was arrested. .....

B **Complete using the words and phrases in the box.**

at no point • in no way • little • never • not • not only only after • on no account • rarely • under no circumstances

1 ..... were the security guards to blame for what happened.
2 ..... once did the old woman thank me for helping her.
3 ..... seeing the doctor was Theresa allowed to leave hospital.
4 ..... will passengers be allowed to carry more than 6 kg of hand luggage.
5 ..... were you late, but you also forgot to bring the correct documents.
6 ..... during the meeting did anyone mention that the managing director was planning to leave.
7 ..... did the passengers know that the driver was really an undercover police officer.
8 ..... do you meet anyone as charming as Mr Beeching.
9 ..... should unaccompanied children be allowed to enter the area.
10 ..... before has the company found itself facing such stiff competition.

C **Complete using the words in bold with the verb in the correct form.**

1 Not until the area is made safe ..... . (**construction / can continue**)
2 In no way ..... (**the announcement / affect**) how strongly we felt about the situation.
3 Seldom ..... (**you / see**) a vintage car in quite such good condition these days.
4 Not only ..... (**Jerry / forget**) my birthday, but he also forgot our wedding anniversary.
5 At no time ..... (**I / ask**) my opinion on the subject.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6 Only when ..... (**I / checked**) the ticket again did I realise that I had won first prize!
7 Little ..... (**Caroline / realise**) that I had a big surprise planned for her.
8 Under no circumstances ..... (**you / should sign**) a contract you haven't read thoroughly.
9 At no stage ..... (**it / appear**) likely that Wilkinson would win the championship.
10 Only if the weather is clear ..... (**the space shuttle / will allow**) to launch.

D **Complete using a verb from the box in the correct form. Try to use each verb at least once.**

appear • be • come • go • lie • sit • stand

Neighbourhood noise

'There (**1**) ..... our new neighbour now,' said Joe. I looked up and coming along the path (**2**) ..... a short, fat man. On his head (**3**) ..... a bright red baseball cap. He ignored us and went into the house next door. We waited a moment. From an upstairs window (**4**) ..... the sound of loud rock music. Joe sighed.
'Every day for the past week has been the same,' he said. 'Well, today's going to be different.' In his hand (**5**) ..... a letter from the council. 'This'll stop him,' he said.
We went next door and knocked. After a moment, the door opened and the music suddenly got louder. There (**6**) ..... a little old woman, looking up at us, smiling. On the sofa behind her (**7**) ..... a fat old cat.
'Erm ... we've come about the noise,' mumbled Joe, confused at finding the old woman.
'Eh?' she said.
'About the noise. I've got a letter from the council,' shouted Joe. Suddenly, in the doorway (**8**) ..... the same fat man I had seen earlier.
'She's quite deaf. That's why she plays her music so loud. Can I help you?'
Joe looked at the little old woman. 'Er ... no. No. That's okay.' He screwed the letter up and put it into his pocket.

E **Circle the correct phrase. If both are correct, circle both.**

1 Dave doesn't really trust Ian, and I have to say that neither **I do / do I**.
2 Such a valuable painting **it is / is it** that the public are not allowed to get close to it.
3 So **we could / could we** watch TV while we ate, we moved the television onto the balcony.
4 My dad's never been abroad, and nor **my mum has / has my mum**.
5 Such **the media interest was / was the media interest** in the wedding that there were over a dozen photographers.
6 It's been a hard season for the team, as **last season was / was last season**.
7 Russia is a country with vast natural resources, and so **China is / is China**.
8 We in this country spend more per person on fuel than **the French do / do the French**.
9 The Minister was forced to resign, such **the pressure was / was the pressure** on her.
10 So nervous **he was / was he** that I was almost certain he was lying.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

F **Rewrite the sentences, starting with the words given.**

1 The window was broken by a cricket ball.
It ..... .

2 I will never forget the day I heard I'd got into my chosen university.
The day on ..... .

3 Glynn became a social worker to help people less fortunate than himself.
The reason ..... .

4 Getting through the summer without getting injured was the only thing the athlete wanted.
All ..... .

5 The driver didn't see the motorcyclist.
What happened ..... .

6 Christopher Columbus discovered America.
The person ..... .

7 Seeing Patricia cry like that made me feel guilty.
What ..... .

8 What we had to do first was decide where to meet.
The first thing ..... .

9 There are lots of facilities where we go camping.
The place ..... .

10 Einstein proved that energy and mass are basically the same thing.
What ..... .

G **Write *so, such, too* or *enough* in each gap.**

1 It was ..... good a meal that we left the waiter quite a large tip.
2 It's becoming increasingly clear that there just aren't ..... people willing to buy our products online.
3 I'm quite enjoying my maths degree, but I just find statistics ..... boring!
4 Angela seemed to be having ..... a good time at the party that I decided not to tell her how late it was.
5 We've all been working ..... hard on the latest project the manager gave us a couple of extra days off.
6 I worry about my grandparents because they have ..... a lot of health problems.
7 It's ..... early to tell whether the business is going to succeed or not.
8 Set the alarm or we'll never wake up early ..... to catch the first train.
9 I never knew that Andrew had ..... few friends.
10 Everyone was surprised when Dan failed because he's ..... a good student.
11 A year after losing my job, I had ..... many debts that I was really beginning to panic.
12 I was hoping to have a word with Alan before he left, but it seems to be ..... late now.

H **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.**

1 I had to clear the spare room before I could start decorating. **cleared**
Only when ..... start decorating.

2 The phone rang again as soon as I put it down. **had**
Hardly ..... it rang again.

3 The Watsons moved to London and very soon after they decided to get divorced. **had**
No sooner ..... they decided to get divorced.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 I had no idea the manager wanted to see me to fire me. **realise**
Little ..... the manager wanted to see me to fire me.

5 I was told about the website by Charlie. **who**
It ..... me about the website.

6 Buying a plane ticket at the last minute isn't often possible. **to**
Rarely ..... a plane ticket at the last minute.

7 They didn't ask me anything about my plans for the summer. **question**
Not ..... about my plans for the summer.

8 There is no situation in which we will allow the management to lower wages. **no**
Under ..... the management to lower wages.

I Choose the correct answer.

1 Not until we have no choice ..... the business down.
A close we C will we close
B we will close D we close

2 It was ..... a victory that even Smith's fans couldn't believe it.
A such surprising C too surprising
B so surprising D surprising enough

3 At no time ..... I was going to fail the exam.
A did I think C I thought
B thought I D was I thought

4 So ..... that they actually finished three weeks early.
A were the builders fast C the builders were fast
B fast the builders were D fast were the builders

5 Never ..... complete and utter rubbish!
A have I heard so C did I hear so
B I heard such D have I heard such

6 In no way ..... that people will be prevented from organising peaceful protests.
A this law means C does this law mean
B means this law D this law does mean

7 If you don't put the tent up ..... , it might blow away!
A too carefully C such carefully
B so carefully D carefully enough

8 No sooner ..... everyone started to gossip about him.
A had Mike left than C left Mike when
B did Mike leave when D Mike had left than

9 'I can't stand this hot weather!'
'No, ... Dreadful, isn't it?'
A so can't I C so I can't
B neither can I D nor I can

10 'We were at the *Rolling Stones* concert last weekend.'
'Were you? So ..... !'
A I was C I was there
B was I being D was I

J Write one word in each gap.

Problems close to home

Rarely (**1**) ..... neighbours have the best of relationships for any length of time. Of course, some people become close friends, but only if there is a lot of give and take (**2**) ..... this possible. (**3**) ..... common are disputes between neighbours that there are many laws to cover arguments over noise, property and rubbish. Before things go (**4**) ..... far for the relationship to be saved, there are a few simple things you can do. The first is (**5**) ..... speak to your neighbour. You'd be amazed at how many arguments are avoided by (**6**) ..... a simple step. Not (**7**) ..... does it give you the chance to express your complaint, it (**8**) ..... gives your neighbour the chance to explain and, perhaps, take action.

Secondly, check your rights. On (**9**) ..... account should you do anything to damage your neighbours' property, or their overhanging trees if that's the problem, without knowing what your legal rights are. (**10**) ..... until you are sure you are acting within the law should you do anything. And remember – a little understanding can go a long way.

LIVEWORKSHEETS