

“The Cat Wedding Protest”

Not only did Deborah Hodge lose her apartment because of her cat, but she also decided to marry it.

“I’ve moved five times in four years, all because landlords don’t allow pets,” she said.

Never before had she felt so frustrated—until she came up with a unique plan. On a sunny afternoon in London, she put on a wedding dress, grabbed her cat India, and said “I do” in a public park.

Little did she know that her story would go viral.

People all over the world reacted—some confused, some inspired.

Deborah says she hopes this “protest wedding” will raise awareness.

“Pets are family,” she added.

Seldom do we hear about such dedication, but Deborah stands by her decision.

“If I can’t live with my cat, I won’t live there at all,” she declared.

? Comprehension Questions (5’)

1. Why did Deborah marry her cat?

2. What does she hope to achieve with her wedding?

3. How did people react to the story?

4. How does Deborah feel about pets?

True or False

1. Deborah moved five times because she got married. True / False
2. She married her cat as a form of protest. True / False
3. The ceremony happened in a church. True / False
4. The story received international attention. True / False

Vocabulary Focus

Match the words with their meanings:

1. Protest	a) not usual
2. Viral	b) to go against something
	publicly
3. Seldom	c) shared rapidly online
4. Dedication	d) rare
5. Unusual	e) strong commitment

Grammar Focus (10') – Inversion for Emphasis

Explain: In formal or dramatic writing/speech, we invert the subject and auxiliary verb after certain phrases.

Examples from the text:

- *Not only did she lose her apartment, but she also married her cat.*
- *Never before had she felt so frustrated.*
- *Little did she know it would go viral.*

Structures:

- *Not only... but also...*
- *Never / Rarely / Seldom / Little + auxiliary + subject + verb*
- *No sooner had + subject + past participle + than + past simple*

Grammar Practice

A. Complete the sentences with the correct inversion

1. _____ had he entered the room than the lights went out.
2. _____ do I see such bravery.
3. _____ did she imagine that her video would go viral.
4. _____ had I heard a funnier story.
5. _____ did he shout, but he also jumped on the table.

B. Rewrite the sentences using inversion

1. I had hardly finished my coffee when the cat jumped on me.

→ _____.

2. She rarely complains about anything.

→ _____.

3. He not only sings well, but he also writes songs.

→ _____.

4. We had no sooner sat down than the phone rang.

→ _____.

5. They little knew what was coming.

→ _____.

👉 Speaking Activity – “Your Own Headline”

“Now it’s your turn. Make up the weirdest but believable news headline you can imagine.”

Examples:

- *Man teaches parrot to shop online*
- *Woman lives with 99 cats and becomes mayor*