INVERSIONS – C2 level
Objective for CPE Unit 8

UNIT 8

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- In the normal word order of a sentence, a subject is followed by a verb.
- *Madrid offers its visitors an excellent choice of restaurants and some wonderful bars too.*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

- However, sometimes this word order is changed, or inverted. This is usually done to give emphasis within the sentence. For example, the sentence above could be rewritten as:

  Not only does Madrid offer its visitors an excellent choice of restaurants, but there are also some wonderful bars.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- The broad negative adverbs **barely, hardly, rarely,scarcely, seldom** can be used like this:
- *Barely were we into our costumes when it was time to go on stage.*
- *Seldom does a day go by without someone ringing up to complain about the product.*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Never and nowhere



Never and **nowhere** are used in a similar way.

Never had I felt more relaxed than that first week on Corsica.

Nowhere could we find fresh vegetables, and some dairy products were in short supply too.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Other negative words and expressions like this are l**ittle, no sooner, not.**

Little did we realise what we were letting ourselves in for.

- *No sooner had Phoebe arrived than she helped herself to a drink without asking.*
- *Not a single word of thanks did they hear from her.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Had it not been for...

The fixed expression ***Had it not been for*** … is used to
talk about the reasons for changed results.
Had it not been for supportive friends and family, she could not have handled the constant intrusion of the media.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Neither, nor, so...



Inversion also occurs at the end of sentences with **neither, nor and so.**

- ✓ *Tim didn't feel like facing the press and neither did Lucy.*
- ✓ *Students haven't welcomed the new syllabus and nor have their teachers.*
- ✓ *Karl will be pleased to finish work and so will I.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Time clauses

Sometimes a **time clause** precedes inversion.

*Not until **two days** later did we remember to call the school.*
*Only **once before** have I felt like this about a project.*



LIVEWORKSHEETS