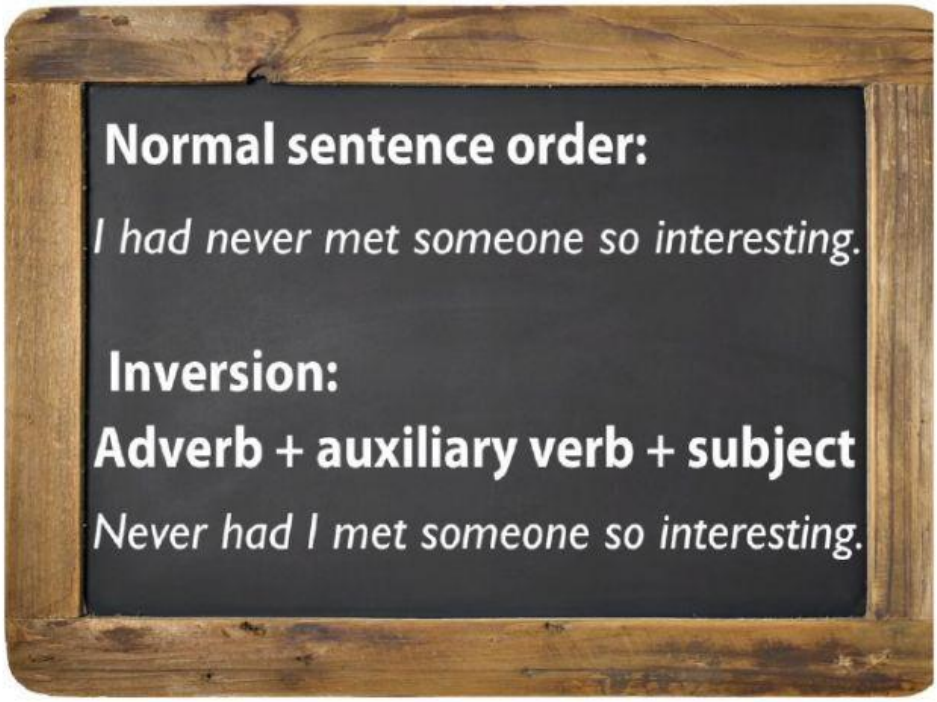
Inversions

Inversions happen in English for *emphasis, dramatic purpose or formality.*

This type of inversion uses *negative* and *limiting* adverbs - these are a group of adverbs which limit the meaning of a verb or make it negative. Examples are never, hardly, no, only...and there are others.

To make an inverted sentence or "an inversion" move the adverbial to the beginning of the sentence and invert the subject and auxiliary verb:



So, it is as simple as changing the order between auxiliary and subject giving the first place in the sentence to the negative adverb.

I have never heard such a beautiful place.

Never have I heard such a beautiful place.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

More examples:

You mustn't at no time go out alone. (normal sentence)

Negative adverb

At no time must you go out alone

When we place the negative adverbial at the beginning we are also adding the negative component of the sentence, so the auxiliary verb will not take the negative particle again. The rest is to place the auxiliary verb before the subject.

I rarely go out on Saturdays. (normal sentence)

This type of inversion requires us to add the auxiliary verb. As it is in the present simple tense, the auxiliary will be do or does depending on the subject.

Rarely do I go out on Saturdays

Here we have a new component in our inversion. It only happens in sentences expressed in the Present or Past simple tenses. So the only additional auxiliaries are: DO/DOES or DID.

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Practise.

a. We have seldom fished so much here.

Seldom_____

b. They are in no way responsible for what occurred last night.

In no way_____

c. You should not on any account take these pills when you drink alcohol.

On no account_____

d. She not once offered us her help.

Not once _____

e. I did not become aware of what was going on at any time.

At any time_____

f. He was so tired that he slept for fourteen hours.

So tired _____

g. My delight was such that I bought everybody a drink.

Such _____

h. They not only supply us with food, but also with drinks.

Not only _____

i. We had no sooner eaten it than we had a terrible stomach-ache.

No sooner _____

j. I had hardly gone to bed when the telephone rang.

Hardly _____

K. I had no sooner switched on the dishwasher than it broke down.

No sooner _____

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