Assumption College

E 23102 M.3/1 – 3/9

Subject: Fundamental English Topic: Inversion

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Why do we make inversion?

- For emphasis
- To make the sentence more dramatic
- In literary or formal language (especially negative sentences)

Type of Inversion

1. Conditional Sentence / If clause Inversion

1.1 If Clause type 1

If + Subject + ..., Subject + ...

= .....

- If you need a hand, I will be more than happy to help you.

  ....., I will be more than happy to help you.

- If you hear anything, please let me know.

  ....., please let me know.

1.2 If Clause type 2

If + Subject + ..., Subject + ...

= .....

- If I were you, I think I would study more for your exam tomorrow.

  ....., I think I would study more for your exam tomorrow.

- If John played tennis, he would win the competition.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

....., he would win the competition.

1.3 If Clause type 3

If + Subject + ..., Subject + ...

= .....

- If she had not helped me, I would have been in bad trouble.

....., I would have been in bad trouble.

- If the weather had been nice, we would have finished painting the walls.

....., we would have finished painting the walls.

Exercise 1: If clause inversion. Rewrite the given sentences.

1.If Sam had enough money, he would change his car.

.....

2. If he had lent me some money, I could have bought that house.

.....

3. If you come early, we may have breakfast.

.....

2. Negative Inversion

Negative words.

- Never / Rarely / Hardly ever / Seldom
- Not often
- Hardly…when…
- No sooner…than…
- Little
- At no time
- Not once
- Not (+ an object)

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- On no account
- On no condition
- Under no circumstances
- In no case

1>I had hardly arrived home when my phone rang.

.....

2.>They had barely won the match when the coach had a heart attack.

.....

3.>The company had no sooner launched a new product than it went bankrupt.

.....

3. So/ Such Inversion

Structure: .....

1> He was so excited that he could hardly sleep.

.....

2> She performed it so well that many said that it was perfect.

.....

3> He became so angry that he stormed out of the room.

.....

4. Inversion after *"So, Neither, Nor"*

We use this to express "Agreement"

1> Paul likes documentaries and .....

2> Vivian went to the cinema and .....

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3> They didn't go to the lecture and .....

4> You haven't finished your lunch and .....

5> A: *I am going home.* B: .....

6> A: *I don't like meat.* B: .....

5. Inversion after "Only..."

Only after/ Only when

Only if / Only by + Inversion in the Main Clause

Not until

1> You can only play after lunch.

.....

2> Bats leave their cave only at night.

.....

3>I will go there only if you come with me.

.....

4>we'd all arrived home Only when I felt calm.

.....

5>after I'd only seen her flat I understood her.

.....

Fill in the blanks

- Not until I saw John with my own eyes did I really believe he was safe.
- Not since Lucy left college, ... such a wonderful time. [she, had had]
- Only after I'd seen her flat ..... why she wanted to live there. [I , understood]
- Only by studying hard , ... their exams. [They, will pass]
- Only when we'd all arrived home ..... calm. [I , felt]

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Exercise1: Rewrite the given sentences.

1.The matter could be explained in no other way.

In.....

2. We had hardly started when it began to rain.

Hardly.....

3.I have seldom heard such beautiful singing.

Seldom.....

4. I shall never forget your kindness.

Never.....

5.The gang didn't know that the police had them under surveillance.

Little.....

Exercise 2: Choose the best answer.

1. _____ should children be allowed to drive.

A. no sooner B. under no circumstances

2. _____ after months of planning were they ready for the conference.

A. rarely B. only

3. _____ had I left than I heard them laughing.

A. no sooner B. only when

4. Only _____ can we start the party.

A. when Jane has arrived B. when has Jane arrived

5. _____ who borrowed the money.

A. Max it was B. It was Max

6. What _____ is simply not true.

A. are you saying B. you are saying

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7. Only by working three jobs _____ able to support his large family.

A. he was B. he is

C. he's being D. was he

8. The boss didn't know what to do, _____ the rest of us.

A. so did B. Either

C. Neither D. nor did

9.___ you see Frank at the conference, give him my regards. A.

Should B. Would C.

Might D. Could

10. ___ the medicine than she began to feel better.

A. Not until she swallowed B. Hardly did she swallow

C. No sooner had she swallowed D. Having swallowed

11. Only by speaking more ___ improve your fluency in English.

A. you are able to B. is it possible to

C. does D. will it

LIVEWORKSHEETS