

Complex sentences

Inversions with negative adverbial words and phrases

hardly (... when)
 scarcely (... when)
 barely (... when)
 no sooner (... than)
 only
 only after
 only when
 not until
 at no time/point/stage
 in no way
 little
 never
 not
 not only (... but also/too)
 on no account
 rarely
 seldom
 under no circumstances

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

Here comes the Minister now.
There stood the next king of England.
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.
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**
 after **as**, **than**, **so** and **such**
 in conditional sentences
 (see Unit 11)

'I voted for Smith.'
 'Did you? **So did I.**'
 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.
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.

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 the ... thing	It was Carol who/that called the police. 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.

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.

- 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.

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.

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.