

Formal Inversion

Never have I... / Rarely does she...

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Negative adverbial at start! ' auxiliary + subject (question word order).

1 Identify the inverted structure

EASY

Choose the correct inverted sentence.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I have never seen such a sunset. | 2. She rarely goes out on weeknights. |
| 3. No sooner arrived than argument started. | 4. He had hardly left when she arrived. |
| 5. Not only did he lie: he also stole. | 6. Little did I know what would happen. |
| 7. Under no circ. should you tell anyone. | 8. Only then did she understand. |
| 9. Scarcely had they eaten when it ended. | 10. Seldom do we witness such bravery. |

2 Complete the inversion

MEDIUM

Fill in the correct auxiliary/structure.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Never ____ I seen such a thing. | 2. Rarely ____ she arrive late. |
| 3. No sooner ____ he sat down than... | 4. Hardly ____ she spoken when... |
| 5. Not only ____ they win but also... | 6. Little ____ we realise how serious it was. |
| 7. Under no circumstances ____ you leave. | 8. Only after the meeting ____ she tell him. |
| 9. Seldom ____ he admit he's wrong. | 10. Scarcely ____ they left when it started. |

3 Inversions in context

HARD

Choose the most natural inversion.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I've never met anyone so talented. | 2. He had no sooner agreed, it changed. |
| 3. She hardly ever complains. | 4. They didn't realise until later. |
| 5. He not only wrote it but directed it. | 6. You should not tell anyone under any circ. |
| 7. She had barely arrived when it started. | 8. I knew little of what lay ahead. |
| 9. We seldom encounter such dedication. | 10. Only when she read it did she understand. |

4

Write the inversion

HARD

Rewrite using formal inversion (lowercase).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I have never tasted such food. (Never...) | 2. She rarely makes mistakes. (Rarely...) |
| 3. He'd no sooner left than she arrived. | 4. She had barely sat down when it rang. |
| 5. Not only did he break it, he denied it. | 6. Under no circ. should you agree to this. |
| 7. I knew little of the plan. (Little...) | 8. Only then did we know the truth. |
| 9. Scarcely had I slept when alarm went off. | 10. So impressive was the result that... |

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Inverted structures

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Never have I seen | 6 Little did I know |
| 2 Rarely does she go | 7 Under no circumstances should you |
| 3 No sooner had we arrived than | 8 Only then did she understand |
| 4 Hardly had he left when | 9 Scarcely had they eaten when |
| 5 Not only did he lie but also stole | 10 Seldom do we witness |

2 Exercise 2 Auxiliaries

- | | |
|--------|---------------------|
| 1 have | 6 did |
| 2 does | 7 should/are you to |
| 3 had | 8 did |
| 4 had | 9 does |
| 5 did | 10 had |

3 Exercise 3 Natural inversions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Never have I met anyone so talented | 6 Under no circumstances should you tell anyone |
| 2 No sooner had he agreed than it changed | 7 Barely had she arrived when it started |
| 3 Hardly ever does she complain | 8 Little did I know what lay ahead |
| 4 Not until later did they realise | 9 Seldom do we encounter such dedication |
| 5 Not only did he write it but also directed it | 10 Only when she read it did she understand |

4 Exercise 4 Written inversions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 never have i tasted such food | 6 under no circumstances should you agree |
| 2 rarely does she make mistakes | 7 little did i know of the plan |
| 3 no sooner had he left than she arrived | 8 only then did we know the truth |
| 4 barely had she sat down when it rang | 9 scarcely had i slept when the alarm went off |
| 5 not only did he break it but also denied it | 10 so impressive was the result that |