

Advanced Inversion

Subject-auxiliary inversion with negative adverbials

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Negative adverbials (Never, Rarely, Not only) trigger inversion.

1 Identify Correct Inversion

EASY

Choose the correctly inverted form.

Word bank: Never have I / Rarely have we / did they know

1. Never ____ such a brave decision.

2. Rarely ____ in such conditions.

3. Not only ____ late, but forgot.

4. No sooner ____ the door than...

5. Hardly ____ when the storm broke.

6. Under no circumstances ____ out.

7. Only after the meeting ____ truth.

8. Little ____ what lay ahead.

9. At no point ____ responsibility.

10. Scarcely ____ when guests came.

2 So/Such Inversion

MEDIUM

Complete with correct so/such inversion.

Word bank: So loud was / Such was the...

1. So ____ the noise that no sleep.

2. Such ____ the pressure: staff quit.

3. So ____ she work: barely slept.

4. Such ____ scale: agencies overwhelmed.

5. So ____ temperature: pipes froze.

6. As ____ his predecessor, so too.

7. Such ____ talent: got scholarship.

8. So ____ response: added seating.

9. As ____ prior gen, so too today.

10. Such ____ enthusiasm: week early.

3 Mixed Inversion

HARD

Choose the correct inversion form.

Word bank: did we realise / can we / am I

1. Not until results ____ full extent.

2. No sooner ____ announcement, protests.

3. Only by working ____ overcome this.

4. Seldom ____ such unanimous support.

5. Not only ____ test, broke record.

6. In no way ____ responsible.

7. Barely ____ when alarm went off.

8. Not for one moment ____ would fail.

9. So ____ the impact: tears in eyes.

10. At no time ____ original terms.

4

Rewrite Using Inversion**VERY HARD**

Rewrite beginning with the word(s) given.

1. Never seen: (Never before...)

3. Not only sorry, offered resign.

5. No sooner results: complaints.

7. Little knew other side.

9. Worked hard: collapsed. (So hard...)

2. Barely sat when rang. (Barely...)

4. So quiet: no one dared breathe.

6. No phones during exams allowed.

8. Pressure: team threatened quit.

10. Only after years: impact known.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Identify Correct Inversion

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 have I seen | 6 are students allowed |
| 2 have we worked | 7 did we find out |
| 3 was he | 8 did they know |
| 4 had I opened | 9 did the manager accept |
| 5 had we left | 10 had we prepared |

2 Exercise 2 So/Such Inversion

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 loud was | 6 was |
| 2 was the pressure | 7 was |
| 3 hard did | 8 overwhelming was |
| 4 was | 9 did |
| 5 sudden was | 10 was |

3 Exercise 3 Mixed Inversion

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 did we realise | 6 am I |
| 2 had the announcement been made | 7 had we stepped |
| 3 can we | 8 did I imagine |
| 4 does a policy | 9 profound was |
| 5 did she pass | 10 did they discuss |

4 Exercise 4 Rewrite Using Inversion

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Never before have I seen such determination | 6 Under no circumstances are students allowed to use their phones |
| 2 Barely had she sat down when her phone rang | 7 Little did they know what awaited them on the other side |
| 3 Not only did he apologise but he also offered to resign | 8 Such was the pressure that the entire team threatened to quit |
| 4 So complete was the silence that no one dared to breathe | 9 So hard did he work that he collapsed from exhaustion |
| 5 No sooner had we announced the results than the company collapsed | 10 Only after many years did we understand the full impact of the decision |