

Advanced 3
Unit 4: Language Focus 2
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Inversion

inversion (n.) = changing the Word Order

Inversion with emphatic words at the beginning of a sentence is a grammatical structure used to add emphasis or create a dramatic effect. This involves placing an adverb or adverbial phrase at the beginning of the sentence and then inverting the usual order of the subject and auxiliary verb.

invert = to turn something upside down or change the order of two things

Here are some examples:

1. **Negative Adverbials:**

- **Never** have I seen such a beautiful sight. (Instead of “I have never seen such a beautiful sight.”)
- **Rarely** do we get the chance to see such talent. (Instead of “We rarely get the chance to see such talent.”)

2. **Adverbial Phrases:**

- **Only then** did I understand the true meaning. (Instead of “I only understood the true meaning then.”)
- **Hardly** had I arrived when the meeting started. (Instead of “I had hardly arrived when the meeting started.”)

3. **Expressions with “Not”:**

- **Not only** did she sing, but she also danced. (Instead of “She not only sang, but she also danced.”)
- **Not until** the end did they realize the truth. (Instead of “They did not realize the truth until the end.”)

This structure is often used in formal writing or speech to make the statement more persuasive or impressive.

Emphatic Words or Phrases Requiring Inversion:

Emphatic Words	Inverted Sentences
Hardly	Hardly had I got into bed when the telephone rang.
Never	Never had she seen such a beautiful sight before.
Seldom	Seldom do we see such an amazing display of dance.
Rarely	Rarely will you hear such beautiful music.
Only then	Only then did I understand why the tragedy had happened.
Not only ... but	Not only does he love chocolate and sweets but he also smokes.
No sooner	No sooner had we arrived home than the police rang the doorbell.
Scarcely	Scarcely had I got off the bus when it crashed into the back of a car.
Only later	Only later did she really think about the situation.
Nowhere	Nowhere have I ever had such bad service.
Little	Little did he know!
Only in this way	Only in this way could John earn enough money to survive.
In no way	In no way do I agree with what you're saying.
On no account	On no account should you do anything without asking me first.

Source:

[Advanced 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)