

# Inversion

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*It was a dark and stormy night, the wind was whistling through the trees and the rain was pouring down. **Not only was I** completely soaking wet, **but also** my teeth were chattering because of the icy wind. I knocked on the door of the ancient run-down mansion as hard as I could; **little did I know** the horror that awaited me on the other side of the door. **No sooner had I** ceased my knocking than the door slowly opened. The darkness on the other side was *pitch-black* but **so desperate was I** to get out of the storm that I jumped inside without a second thought. **Hardly had I** set foot inside the house when the *door slammed shut* behind me. Then I remembered what the blind man in the village had told me years ago when I was child. "That house in the woods is haunted...**under no circumstances should you** ever go near it." It was too late now...*

## Language Focus

- *Form* - Look at the word order after the inversion phrases:
  - Not only...
  - Little...
  - No sooner
  - So desperate...
  - Hardly...
  - Under no circumstances
- Complete the formula: Inversion phrase + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

## Production

*Write the next paragraph of the story using as many inversions as you can.*



### *Look at these extra examples of each inversion*

**Not only:** used with a wide range of tenses and auxiliary verbs:

- **Not only are** vampires afraid of crosses, but also garlic.
- **Not only did** the werewolf have sharp teeth, but also long claws.
- **Not only would** I recommend calling the police, but also I would run away as fast as I could.

Invert these sentences using a “not only” inversion in each:

1. In Valencia there are two football clubs and a basketball team.
2. Kate would go travelling and buy her parents a new house if she won the lottery.
3. Last night my dog behaved so badly. He ate my homework in addition to biting my dad!

**Little:** most commonly used with “know” and “realise”:

- **Little did I realise** how much danger I was in.
- **Little did she know** what had just happened in the other room.

Invert these sentences using a “little” inversion in each:

1. I didn't know my student had been cheating on all his exams this year.
2. Bill isn't aware that all his friends are planning a surprise party for him.

**No sooner... than:** Or **Hardly... when** Most commonly used with past perfect to express that one action happened immediately after another:

- **No sooner had I closed** the door **than** I heard a strange scratching sound.
- **No sooner had I fallen** asleep **than** a strange light came in through the window.
- **Hardly had the sound stopped when** the door burst open.
- **Hardly had I turned around when** the beast appeared at the end of the corridor.

Invert these sentences using a “no sooner ... had” or “hardly/barely ... when” inversion in each:

1. As soon as the ball hit the back of the net, all the fans started cheering.
2. As soon as I saw her I fell in love.
3. As soon as the teacher entered the class the students fell silent.
4. As soon as the concert started his phone rang.

**So + adjective + that...:** Used with a range of adjectives to add emphasis and express consequences:

- **So cold was it that** my hands were shaking.
- **So frightening was the beast that** even the brave soldier screamed in fear.

*Invert these sentences using a “so + adjective + that” inversion in each.*

1. The food was so delicious that I ordered a second serving.
2. The film was awful so I left the film after just 30 minutes.
3. Jane and Tom were so sad after their team’s result they decided to book a holiday to Greece.

**Under no circumstances + should/must:** Used to indicate prohibitions:

- **Under no circumstances should** this door to be left open.
- **Under no circumstances should** you eat on the bus.
- **Under no circumstances must** you speak during the exam.

Invert these sentences using an “Under no circumstances should/must” inversion in each.

1. You mustn't leave your bags on the table.
2. You mustn't smoke in the school.
3. You mustn't disturb the sleeping babies.
4. “You mustn't tell anybody about this secret- I mean it!”

## Part 4 Exam practice

1. The paramedics were told that they should never place a human life at risk trying to rescue an animal.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The paramedics were warned that \_\_\_\_\_ place a human life at risk trying to rescue an animal.

2. They had no idea that the beast was watching their every move.

REALISE

Little \_\_\_\_\_ the beast was watching their every move.

3. The enormous size of the beast's tentacles stopped them from reaching the exit.

WERE

So \_\_\_\_\_ that they couldn't reach the exit.

4. As soon as they were outside the house, she called the police.

HAD

No \_\_\_\_\_ of the house than she called the police.

5. The car wouldn't start and the gun was jammed.

WOULD

Not \_\_\_\_\_ but also the gun was jammed.

6. They didn't know that the call was coming from inside the house until it was too late.

THAT

Little \_\_\_\_\_ was coming from inside the house until it was too late.