

What is Inversion for Emphasis?

Worksheet

Inversion is reversing the normal subject-verb order to put emphasizing information first. For example, instead of 'Only John could solve it,' you write 'Only could John solve it' or 'Never have I seen such a thing.' The inversion creates emphasis and drama.

Questions

1. Which is an inversion for emphasis?

- A) I have never seen it.
- B) Never have I seen it.
- C) I never have seen it.
- D) Have I never seen it?

2. Normal form: 'Rarely do students work so hard.'

- A) Students rarely do work so hard.
- B) Students work so hard rarely.
- C) Rarely work students so hard.
- D) Do rarely students work so hard?

3. Invert: Only then she realized it was true.

- A) Only then she realized.
- B) Only then did she realize.
- C) Realize she only then did.
- D) She only then realized.

4. What adverbial invokes inversion?

- A) Because
- B) However
- C) Not only
- D) And

5. Invert for emphasis: I have never seen a more beautiful place.

6. Create inversion: Only then did she understand the truth.

7. What is the normal order of: 'Not only did they win, but they broke the record'?

8. Define: What is inversion for emphasis?

9. Define: Common inversion adverbials?

10. Define: When do you invert?

Answer Key

1. B) Never have I seen it. — Option 2 moves 'Never' first and inverts subject-verb: Adverbial + Auxiliary + Subject.
2. A) Students rarely do work so hard. — Option 1 is the normal non-inverted version.
3. B) Only then did she realize. — Option 2 follows: Adverbial (Only then) + Aux (did) + Subject (she).
4. C) Not only — 'Not only' is a restrictive adverbial requiring inversion.
5. Adverbial: Never Auxiliary verb: have Inversion: 'Never have I seen a more beautiful place.'
Effect: 'Never' gets strong emphasis at the start.
6. Normal: She understood the truth only then. Adverbial phrase: 'Only then' Invert: Adverbial + aux (did) + subject (she) Result: 'Only then did she understand.'
7. Inverted: Not only did they win... Normal would be: They not only won... Not only is a restrictive adverbial → mandatory inversion
8. Reversing subject-verb order (often with an aux verb) to highlight or stress important words.
9. Never, rarely, hardly, only, not only, so, barely, in no way, at no time.
10. Usually with negative or restrictive adverbials at the start of a sentence.

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