

What is Inversion?

Worksheet

Inversion reverses the normal subject-verb order: 'Never have I seen such a sight' (normal: 'I have never seen...'). Used for effect, questions, or conditionals.

Questions

1. Which is an inverted sentence?
A) I have never seen that.
B) Never have I seen that.
C) I never have seen that.
D) Seen that I never have.
2. Invert this: 'She rarely complains about anything.'
A) Complains she rarely anything.
B) Rarely does she complain about anything.
C) Rarely she complains about anything.
D) She complains rarely about anything.
3. Which inversion type appears in questions?
A) Emphasis inversion
B) Auxiliary inversion
C) Conditional inversion
D) All of the above
4. Rewrite without 'if': 'If you had asked, I would have helped.'
A) You had asked, I would have helped.
B) Had you asked, I would have helped.
C) Asked you would have, I helped.
D) I would have helped you asked.
5. Invert for emphasis: 'I have rarely seen such beauty.'
6. Invert this question: 'Did she understand the instructions?'
7. Create an inverted conditional: 'If I had known, I would have warned you.'
8. Define: What is inversion?
9. Define: Normal English word order?
10. Define: Three uses of inversion?

Answer Key

1. B) Never have I seen that. — 'Never have I seen that' places the negative adverb first and inverts subject-auxiliary.
2. B) Rarely does she complain about anything. — When fronting an adverb, add/invert the auxiliary: 'Rarely does she complain...'
3. B) Auxiliary inversion — Questions invert auxiliary to front: 'Did she go?' (not 'She did go?').
4. B) Had you asked, I would have helped. — Dropping 'if' requires inversion: 'Had you asked, I would have helped.'
5. Normal: Subject-Verb-Object = 'I have rarely seen such beauty.' Identify what to emphasize: 'rarely' Move adverb to front, invert subject-verb: 'Rarely have I seen such beauty.' The inversion stresses the rarity of the sight.
6. This IS a question (auxiliary 'did' fronted). But to show extreme inversion for drama: 'Understand the instructions did she?' (very old/rare) More natural modern: inversion already occurs in questions naturally: 'Did she understand...?' (V-S order).
7. Normal conditional: 'If I had known, I would have warned you.' Inverted (omit 'if'): 'Had I known, I would have warned you.' The inversion creates formality and elegance.
8. A reversal of normal subject-verb word order, placing the verb or complement before the subject for emphasis or style.
9. SVO: Subject-Verb-Object. Example: 'She studies French.'
10. Emphasis ('Never have I...'), questions ('Did you...?'), conditionals ('Had I known...').

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.