# Inversion Worksheet: Never Have I, Not Only, Hardly

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NAME

DATE

## Remember

| Form | Example |
|---|---|
| **Negative adverbial + auxiliary + subject + verb** | Never have I felt so tired. |
| **Use do / does / did when there is no auxiliary** | Rarely does she complain. |
| **Not only + inversion..., but (also)...** | Not only did we lose, but we also played badly. |
| **Hardly / Scarcely... when · No sooner... than · Only when / after / then** | No sooner had I sat down than the phone rang. |

## Typical mistakes

| × Learners often say | ✓ Say instead |
|---|---|
| **Never I have seen such a beautiful view.** | Never have I seen such a beautiful view. |
| **Rarely she goes out.** | Rarely does she go out. |
| **No sooner had we arrived when it started raining.** | No sooner had we arrived than it started raining. / Hardly had we arrived when it started raining. |

## 1. Rewrite

*Rewrite each sentence starting with the words given.*

1. I have never heard such nonsense. → Never _____
2. She rarely loses her temper. → Rarely _____
3. He was rude and he was also late. → Not only _____
4. As soon as I got home, the power went off. → No sooner _____
5. I understood the problem only when I read the report. → Only when _____
6. You should not open this door under any circumstances. → Under no circumstances _____
7. We had just started eating when the guests arrived. → Hardly _____
8. I didn't realise how lucky I was until later. → Not until later _____

## 2. Choose

*Circle the correct option.*

1. Seldom (we see / do we see) such talent.
2. Not only (she sings / does she sing), she also writes her songs.
3. No sooner had he left (than / when) she called.
4. Only after the meeting (I realised / did I realise) my mistake.
5. Little (did they know / they knew) what was coming.
6. At no time (was the public / the public was) in danger.
7. Hardly had I closed my eyes (than / when) the alarm went off.
8. Never before (has the city / the city has) been so crowded.

## 3. Correct the mistakes

*Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.*

1. Not only she is clever, but she is also kind.

2. Rarely I have eaten such good food.

3. Only then I understood.

4. No sooner I had paid than the price dropped.

5. Little he knew about the surprise.

6. Under no circumstances you should leave the room.

## Writing

Write the opening of a dramatic speech or a short story (6 sentences). Use at least four different inversion structures.

## Speaking

- Describe the best meal you have ever had, starting with ‘Never have I…’
- Talk about a time things went wrong: ‘No sooner had I… than…’
- Give three rules for a dangerous job, starting with ‘Under no circumstances…’
- What did you only understand when you got older? Start with ‘Only when…’

### Answer key

**1. Rewrite:** 1 Never have I heard such nonsense. · 2 Rarely does she lose her temper. · 3 Not only was he rude, but he was also late. · 4 No sooner had I got home than the power went off. · 5 Only when I read the report did I understand the problem. · 6 Under no circumstances should you open this door. · 7 Hardly had we started eating when the guests arrived. · 8 Not until later did I realise how lucky I was.

**2. Choose:** 1 do we see · 2 does she sing · 3 than · 4 did I realise · 5 did they know · 6 was the public · 7 when · 8 has the city

**3. Correct the mistakes:** 1 Not only is she clever, but she is also kind. · 2 Rarely have I eaten such good food. · 3 Only then did I understand. · 4 No sooner had I paid than the price dropped. · 5 Little did he know about the surprise. · 6 Under no circumstances should you leave the room.

**Writing, model answer:** Never before had the village seen such a storm. Not only did the river burst its banks, but the bridge also collapsed. No sooner had the last family left their home than the water reached the roof. Only when the sun rose did we understand the scale of the damage. At no time, however, did anyone lose hope. Rarely have I been so proud of my neighbours.