




INVERSIONS





So far, we have studied all positive sentences follow this structure:

Subject + verb + complements

However, this can be changed thanks to inversion.


Usually found in formal situations, in political speeches, on the news, and also in literature, we also use inversion in less formal contexts to add emphasis or dramatic effect.




Inversion is used in
the following cases:



In questions:

- Is Peter taking an exam tomorrow?
 - Does he work here?
- 



After the following negative time expressions and phrases containing no/not when they come at the beginning of the sentence:

Never

Seldom

Rarely

Little

Barely

Only recently

Hardly ever...

when

Nowhere

On no account

No sooner... than

Not only...but also

In no way


Under no

circumstances



When using inversion, the
VERB comes *before* the
SUBJECT.

The verb which is placed
before the subject is an
Auxiliary/ Modal verb.



**negative adverb + auxiliary verb +
subject + main verb + complement.**


- **Examples:**

Never have I seen such a beautiful woman

Seldom do we go out since the baby was born

Rarely do you hear anything negative about him

Under no circumstances should you go near him




Pay special attention to the following expressions:

Only ... Only after Only by Only when	When these expressions come at the beginning of a sentence, the inversion is in the main clause
--	--

- **Examples:**

Only after she started working, was she able to save some money

Only if you follow my advice, will you succeed.



With *so, neither, nor, as* to express agreement:

'I love chocolate ice-cream'

'So do I'

' I can't stand violent films?'

'Neither do I'

Inversion after 'So', 'Such'

'So + adjective ... that' combines with the verb 'to be'.

Example:

So strange was the situation that I couldn't sleep.

So difficult is the test that students

'Such + to be + noun ... (that)':

Example:

Such is the moment that all greats traverse.

Such is the stuff of dreams.

Inverted Conditional Forms

The conditional 'if' is dropped and the inverted forms take the place of the 'if clause'.

- **Examples:**

If he had understood the problem, he wouldn't have committed those mistakes.

Had he understood the problem, he wouldn't have committed those mistakes.

If he should decide to come, please telephone.

Should he decide to come, please telephone.