

12 Inversion / Emphatic Structures

Inversion

We can invert the subject and the auxiliary verb in the sentence to give emphasis. If there is no auxiliary verb, we use **do/does** (Present S.) or **did** (Past S.) in the interrogative. This happens:

- after certain expressions when they are placed at the beginning of a sentence. These are: **Barely, Hardly (ever) ... when, In no way, In/Under no circumstances, Little, Never (before), Nor/Neither, No sooner ... than, Not even once, Not only ... but also, Not since, Not till/until, Nowhere, Only by, Only in this way, On no account, On no occasion, Only then, Rarely, Scarcely (ever) ... when, Seldom, etc.** *Under no circumstances should you open the door. Seldom do we see him these days. Only after, only by, only if, only when, not since, not till/until* used at the beginning cause inversion of the subject and the auxiliary verb in the main clause. *Only when they had left did he burst into tears.*
- in conditionals when **should, were, had** (Past Perfect) are placed at the beginning of the sentence. Note that **if** is omitted. *Should you come early, we'll go to the theatre.* (If you should come, ... - Type 1) *Were I you, I would see a doctor.* (If I were you ... - Type 2) *Had he been asked, he would have helped.* (If he had been asked ... - Type 3)
- after **so, such, to such a degree** (in result clauses) placed at the beginning of a sentence. *So short is she that she can't reach the shelf.*
- after **so, neither/nor, as** to express agreement. *"He likes trout." "So does his wife."* (So is used to agree with an affirmative sentence.) *"She doesn't like fish." "Neither/Nor do I."* (Neither/Nor are used to agree with a negative statement.) *His schoolmates admire him, as do his teachers.*

In the following structures we invert the subject and the main verb.

- after **adverbs of place.** *Here comes Ann!* (BUT *Here she comes!*) *Here is her bag!* (BUT *Here it is!*)
- in **Direct Speech** when the reporting verb comes after the quote and the subject is a noun. *"What awful weather!" said Mary.* (Mary said is also possible.) (BUT *"What awful weather!" she said.*)

1 Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- We can get into the house only if you have a key.
can Only if ...you have a key **can**... we get into the house.
- If the weather gets any colder, we'll turn on the heating.
get Should we'll turn on the heating.
- He had just entered when the telephone rang.
sooner No the telephone rang.
- He visits us so rarely that I can hardly remember what he looks like.
visit So that I can hardly remember what he looks like.
- Mark works so hard that I'm sure he'll be promoted soon.
does So that I'm sure he'll be promoted soon.
- If you had been there, you would have enjoyed it.
been Had would have enjoyed it.
- He spoke to me only after I spoke to him.
speak Only after I spoke to him to me.
- Janet won't get on a plane under any circumstances.
will Under on a plane.
- I realised who she was only after a few minutes.
realise Only after a few minutes she was.
- She didn't know that her wish would come true.
did Little her wish would come true.
- He didn't laugh once all evening.
did Not all evening.
- They scarcely talk to each other any more.
do Scarcely each other any more.

- 13 This restaurant rarely gets so crowded.
get Seldom so crowded.
- 14 If he had left earlier, he would have been on time.
he Had have been on time.
- 15 She was so happy that she decided to celebrate.
she So she decided to celebrate.
- 16 This is the only way that we can be sure we are right.
in Only be sure that we are right.
- 17 If he notices anything, we'll be in trouble.
notice Should, we'll be in trouble.
- 18 Sarah forgot to take her purse and her handbag too.
did Sarah didn't remember to take her purse; to take her handbag.
- 19 He was so scared that he could hardly breathe.
fear Such he could hardly breathe.
- 20 She performed so well that she won an award.
perform So that she won an award.
- 21 Thailand is warmer and cheaper than England.
only Not than England, it's cheaper too.
- 22 If I were you, I would try calling her again.
you Were calling her again.
- 23 The weather hasn't been this warm since last summer.
has Not since last summer this warm.
- 24 You must not miss the plane on any account.
no On the plane.
- 25 She had just left when the boss asked to see her.
sooner No the boss asked to see her.
- 26 He will only understand you if you speak French.
will Only he understand you.
- 27 If you don't apologise, he will never forgive you.
not Should, he will never forgive you.

2 Rewrite the sentences using so or such at the beginning of the sentence.

- 1 The weather was so bad that they stayed at home. So ...*bad was the weather that they stayed at home.*...
- 2 The house was so big that he almost got lost. So
- 3 He was so surprised to see her he could hardly speak. Such
- 4 She was so bored by the play that she fell asleep. So
- 5 He was so angry that he shouted at everyone. Such

3 Fill in so, neither/nor and the appropriate verb.

- 1 "I'd like to go to Belgium one day."
"...*So would I.* ... I've never been there."
- 2 "I really enjoyed that film last night."
"..... It's one of the best I've ever seen."
- 3 "I've used up all my money."
"..... My purse is empty."
- 4 "We didn't like the food they served yesterday."
"..... It was overcooked."
- 5 "I feel like going to the beach today."
"..... Let's go!"
- 6 "I can't remember how to make soufflé."
"..... Let's look in the recipe book."
- 7 "I don't believe he's telling the truth."
"..... The facts don't add up."

Brussels - Belgium



Emphatic Structures

Emphatic structures are used to emphasise a particular part of a sentence.

- **it is/was (not) + subject/object + who(m)/that** (used in statements and negations)
*It **wasn't John who/that** called last night. It **wasn't her bicycle that** was stolen.
It **was his house that** was burgled. It's **David who** is modelling for Fendi.*
- **is/was it + subject/object + who(m)/that** (used in questions)
***Was it my fault that** it happened? **Was it her sister who** got a first at university?*
- **that is/was + question word** (used in statements) ***That's why** she left the party so early.*
- **is/was that + question word or question word + is/was it + that** (used in questions)
***Was that why** she was crying? **Why was it that** he got so angry?*
- **question word + subject + verb + is/was** (used in statements) ***What I need** is some time alone.*
- We can use **do/does/did + bare infinitive** in the Present Simple, Past Simple or Imperative to give emphasis.
***I do hope** he will be all right. **Do have** another piece of pie. He **did tell** me he was coming.*
- To express **admiration, anger, concern** etc we use question words with **ever**.
***Whatever** shall I do? **Whoever** is that?*

4

Rewrite the sentences as in the example giving emphasis to the words in bold.

- Mary sent this card. ...*It was Mary who sent this card...*
- Judy baked the cake.
- Did you lock the front door?
- You need a long rest.
- Johnny needs a new pair of shoes.
- Mary came round last night.
- Where did you go on holiday last year?
- Why are you always biting your nails?
- It doesn't matter what he does, he always makes mistakes.
- He bought a new ring for her.
- Are you angry with Jim?
- Mr Brown called the police.
- When are you moving house?
- Jane needs a lot of support at the moment.
- How will I get there so early in the morning?



5

Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- You haven't paid last month's phone bill.
that It ...*is you that/who hasn't*... paid last month's phone bill.
- Mr Jones is the manager of the supermarket.
is It the manager of the supermarket.
- Did they go to the Caribbean for their honeymoon?
them Was the Caribbean for their honeymoon?
- The bus driver himself doesn't want to let any more passengers on board.
who It doesn't want to let any more passengers on board.
- Julie doesn't want to invite Malcolm to her party.
is It doesn't want to invite to her party.
- My father didn't let me go out last night.
who It didn't let me go out last night.

- 7 Mum, you promised to buy me a new pair of jeans.
did Mum, buy me a new pair of jeans.
- 8 She said that she might be late for dinner.
say She might be late for dinner.
- 9 You were the one who wanted to come here.
was It to come here.
- 10 Did he fail his driving test?
failed Was his driving test?

6 Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- 1 You should never press the red button on the telephone.
circumstances Under ...*no circumstances should you*... press the red button on the telephone.
- 2 He didn't know that Jack had planned a surprise party.
did Little Jack had planned a surprise party.
- 3 Tom is the person who made all this possible.
who It all this possible.
- 4 He seldom goes out at the weekends.
go Seldom at the weekends.
- 5 I won't be at home before Monday.
after Only at home.
- 6 Why were you late for work today?
that Why were late for work today?
- 7 It is impossible for him to find £50,000 to pay the ransom.
can On no account to pay the ransom.
- 8 You'll only find a good job if you're lucky nowadays.
will Only if find a good job nowadays.
- 9 His father cooked dinner on Thursday night.
who It dinner on Thursday night.
- 10 He met his wife while on holiday in Italy.
that It was while he was he met his wife.

7 Think of the word which best fits each gap. Write only one word in each one.

LONELY PLANET

The *Lonely Planet* series (0) ...*of*... travel guide books is a publishing phenomenon. Founded (1) the early seventies by Tony and Maureen Wheeler, Lonely Planet books (2) the first travel guides aimed specifically at backpackers (3) other low-budget travellers. The idea of the book began after a year-long overland journey (across Europe and Asia and onto Australia) taken by the Wheelers. (4) many travellers approached them asking them questions about (5) trip that they decided to self-publish a book about it. That first book – '*Across Asia on the Cheap*' – giving tips and advice for independent adventure travellers became an instant local bestseller. The money from the sales of that book allowed them to take (6) overland journey. This resulted in a second guidebook – *South-East Asia on a Shoestring*. This book went on to become (7) of the most popular guidebooks ever published.

Today, Lonely Planet publishes over 650 titles in 118 countries and annual sales top six million titles. It is without question (8) of the most influential travel guides ever published. Lonely Planet opened up the world of independent adventure travel. It made people feel they could truly travel (9) The books were unique because they gave information on travel spots (10) were not in other guidebooks. Today the books still give up-to-date advice, invaluable tips, information (11) must-see spots, and encourage travellers to explore new places. It is still the book most backpackers turn to (12) they go travelling.