

# C1

# Inversion for Emphasis



1. **Not only is the room** spacious, (but) it is also very comfortable.  
**Not until** they offer him a decent salary will he come back to the company.  
**Never have I been** so insulted!  
**Never again** will I allow myself to be tricked so easily.  
**No sooner had I sat down** than the cat demanded his dinner.
2. **Not only did you arrive** late, (but) you didn't bring any wine.  
**Not until** you've actually been there **do you understand the true beauty of the place.**
3. She didn't answer his call. **Only then did he** really start to worry.  
**Hardly had I met her when** she started criticizing my clothes.  
**Rarely have I been** so embarrassed.

- In formal English, or to be more expressive, we sometimes change the word order.

1. This structure is used with negative expressions such as: *Not only..., Never again..., No sooner...*

- When we use inversion for the above expressions, we change the order of the subject and the auxiliary verb/verb in the same way as we structure a question.

e.g. Not only the house room **is spacious** 🟡 Not only **is the house spacious** ✓

Compare: I have never been in such an embarrassing situation.

Never have I been in such an embarrassing situation.

2. In the present simple and past simple tense, rather than simply changing the position of the verb and the subject, we use the auxiliary verb "do" just as we would when forming a question.

3. Inversion is also used after the expressions: *Only then..., Only when, Hardly/scarcely..., Rarely...*

## Rewrite the sentences to make them more emphatic.

1. The storm didn't subside until midnight.  
Not until \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She won the competition and set a new record.  
Not only \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I only realised what had happened to the car when Sam called me.  
Sam called me. Only then \_\_\_\_\_.
4. They rarely visit us during the winter.  
Rarely \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I had never seen such a magnificent performance.  
Never \_\_\_\_\_.
6. It started to rain as soon as I stepped outside.  
No sooner \_\_\_\_\_.

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1. Not until midnight did the storm subside.
2. Not only did she win the competition, (but) she also set a new record.
3. ... Only then did I realise what had happened to the car.
4. Rarely do they visit us during the winter.
5. Never had I seen such a magnificent performance.
6. No sooner had I stepped outside than it started to rain.