

INVERSION

Grammar at Work (page 80) looks at cases where subject and verb switch places in positive sentences. In these exercises, Anna Hochsieder gives you the chance to practise using inverted word order.

1. Negative thinking

medium

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences below.

REMEMBER!

■ In sentences that begin with a negative adverbial, the subject comes after the auxiliary verb:

Never will I forget what he said to me that day.

■ In sentences that begin with certain adverbials of place or time, the subject comes after a verb of movement or location such as “be”, “go”, “lie”, “sit”, “stand”:

There goes another opportunity to make a profit!

- a) _____ be affected by the takeover.
 1. In no way will jobs
 2. In no way jobs will
- b) _____ that I should have taken his warning seriously.
 1. Only later I realized
 2. Only later did I realize
- c) _____ been less successful.
 1. Rarely a marketing campaign has
 2. Rarely has a marketing campaign
- d) _____ to be published before the end of the month.
 1. On no account is this information
 2. On no account this information is

2. Order, please!

medium

Rewrite these sentences, starting with the adverbials marked in bold.

- a) You should apply for the job **only if** you're sure it's what you want.

- b) I had **hardly** begun my presentation, when the electricity was cut off.

- c) I have **never** heard such nonsense **in my life**.

- d) EU elections **rarely** receive much attention.

- e) He **not only** forgot to send me the report — he forgot to write it!

3. Which is right?

easy

Underline the correct option in each of the sentences below.

- a) **Rarely / Little** does one have the chance to make so much money in such a short time.
- b) **Seldom / Scarcely** had the visitors arrived, when they started complaining.
- c) **At no time / On no condition** was there any risk of the plan failing.
- d) **Not since / Not until** I read the newspaper report, did I find out what had happened.

4. One word only

medium

Fill each gap with the correct word.

- a) _____ no circumstances is smoking permitted in the building.
- b) Only with luck _____ we manage to catch the plane out of Detroit last night.
- c) Never _____ there been a better opportunity to invest your money than here and now.
- d) Scarcely _____ we started on the soup, when the main course arrived.
- e) Not _____ we had landed, did they tell us about the bomb alert.
- f) No sooner had the president arrived, _____ the police began arresting demonstrators.

5. Something wrong here

medium

Three of the six sentences below contain a mistake in the word order. Can you correct them? Write your corrections below the sentences.

- a) Ah! Here comes our train at last!
- b) We had just been told that he had got back from China — and in walked he.
- c) Not since the 1980s had we lost so much on the stock market.
- d) Philip was waiting in the reception area, and next to him Sally sat.
- e) Little I did suspect what she was about to do.
- f) Not only did they refuse to pay, they also threatened to sue us.