

Inversion: adding emphasis

We can add emphasis to a sentence by changing the formal word order of a sentence (inversion)/

The sentence sounds more formal and is often used in written/formal English. The structure of the sentence can be given like this:



The most common “negative” words/expressions are

Not only, Not until, No sooner...than, Never, Hardly/Scarcely ... when, Rarely, Only when, Under no circumstances , In no way

Compare:

Normal sentence	Inverted Sentence /emphasis
As soon as the teacher left the classroom, the students started shouting.	No sooner had the teacher left the classroom than the children started shouting
We had just started playing tennis when it began to rain heavily.	Hardly had we started playing tennis when it began to rain heavily.
I will never speak to her again.	Never will I speak to her again.
The workers will not end the strike until their requests are satisfied.	Not until their requests are satisfied, will the workers end the strike.
You rarely meet such a stubborn man!	Rarely do you meet such a stubborn man!
You should leave the office before 5 p.m. under no circumstances.	Under no circumstances should you leave the office

Now paraphrase the sentences using the inversion

- The meeting started only when all the participants had arrived.
Only when _____
- He shouted at her and he smashed the window.
Not only _____
- You rarely meet such polite people nowadays.
Rarely _____
- The party had just started when the lights went out.
Hardly _____
- Fruit is not only delicious, it is full of vitamins.
Not only _____