

adding emphasis (1): inversion

- 1 Not only **is the plot great**, (but) it's also very well written.
 Not until you can behave like an adult **will we treat** you like an adult.
Never have I heard such a ridiculous argument.
 Never again **will I believe** a word he says.
 No sooner **had the football match started** than it began to snow heavily.
- 2 Not only **did you forget** to shut the window, (but) you also forgot to lock the door!
 Not until you become a parent yourself **do you understand** what it really means.



- 3 The train began to move. **Only then was I able to relax**.
Only when you leave home do you realize how expensive everything is.
Hardly had I sat down when / before the meeting began.
Rarely have I met a more irritating person.

- In formal English, especially in **writing**, we sometimes **change** the normal word order to make the sentence more emphatic or dramatic.
- 1 This structure is common with negative adverbial expressions such as *Not only...*, *Not until...*, *Never (again)...*, and *No sooner...* (= a formal way of saying *as soon as*).
- When we use inversion after the above expressions, we change the order of the **subject and (auxiliary) verb**. **NOT** *Not only the plot is great...*
 Compare:
I have never heard such a ridiculous argument. (= normal word order)
Never have I heard such a ridiculous argument. (= inversion to make the sentence more emphatic)
- 2 In the present simple and past simple tense, rather than simply inverting the subject and verb, we **use do / does / did + subject + main verb**. **NOT** *Not only forgot you to shut the window...*
- 3 Inversion is also used **after the** expressions *Only then...*, *Only when...*, *Hardly / Scarcely...*, *Rarely...*

Overuse of inversion

Inversion should only be used occasionally for **dramatic effect**. Overusing it will make your English **sound unnatural**.

Rewrite the sentences to make them more emphatic.

- I had just started reading when all the lights went out.
 No sooner *had I started reading than all the lights went out.*
- 1 I didn't realize my mistake until years later.
 Not until _____
- 2 We had never seen such magnificent scenery.
 Never _____
- 3 They not only disliked her, but they also hated her family.
 Not only _____
- 4 We only understood what he had really suffered when we read his autobiography.
 Only when _____
- 5 We had just started to eat when we heard someone knocking at the door.
 Hardly _____
- 6 I have rarely read such a badly written novel.
 Rarely _____
- 7 Until you've tried to write a novel yourself, you don't realize how hard it is.
 Not until _____
- 8 The hotel room was depressing – it was cold as well.
 Not only _____
- 9 We only light the fire when it is unusually cold.
 Only when _____
- 10 Shortly after he had gone to sleep the phone rang.
 No sooner _____
- 11 I only realized the full scale of the disaster when I watched the six o'clock news.
 I watched the six o'clock news. Only then _____
- 12 He has never regretted the decision he took on that day.
 Never _____
- 13 I spoke to the manager and the problem was taken seriously.
 Only when _____
- 14 He had scarcely had time to destroy the evidence before the police arrived.
 Scarcely _____
- 15 He would never see his homeland again.
 Never again _____

speculation and deduction

modal verbs: *must, may, might, can't, could, should, ought*

- 1 That **must be** an electric car – it isn't making any noise at all.
You **must have seen** him – he was standing right in front of you!
 - 2 They **can't be playing** very well – they're losing 3–0.
You **can't / couldn't have spent** very long on this essay – you've only written 100 words.
 - 3 I haven't seen the Sales Manager today. He **may / might / could be off sick**.
The keys of the store cupboard have disappeared. Do you think someone **may / might / could have taken** them?
He **may / might not have heard** the message I left.
 - 4 If I post the letter today, it **should / ought to arrive** on Friday.
I posted the letter a week ago, it **should / ought to have arrived** by now.
- 1 As well as using *must* for obligation, we also use *must* + infinitive to say that we are almost sure something is true about the present and *must have* + past participle to say that we are almost sure something was true or happened in the past.
- 2 We use *can't* + infinitive to say that we are almost sure that something isn't true in the present and *can't have / couldn't have* + past participle to say that we are almost sure that something wasn't true / didn't happen in the past.
- We don't use *mustn't / mustn't have* with this meaning.
- 3 We use *may / might / could* + infinitive and *may have / might have / could have* + past participle to say that we think it's possible that something is true in the present, or was true / happened in the past.
- We only use *may not* or *might not* to talk about a negative possibility. **NOT *couldn't***
- 4 We use *should / ought to* + infinitive to describe a situation we expect to happen. We use *should have / ought to have* + past participle to describe a situation we would expect to have happened in the past.

 **Infinitive or continuous infinitive after modals?**

He **must work** really hard. He never gets home before 9.00 p.m.
(= deduction about a habitual action)

There's a light on in his office. He **must still be working**.
(= deduction about an action in progress at the moment of speaking)

adjectives and adverbs for speculation

- 1 He's **bound / sure to** be here in a minute. He left an hour ago.
She's **bound / sure to** know. She's an expert on the subject.
 - 2 I think she's **likely / unlikely to** agree to our proposal.
It is **likely / unlikely** that the government will raise interest rates this year.
 - 3 She'll **definitely pass** the exam. She's worked really hard.
She **definitely won't** pass the exam. She hasn't done any work at all.
He'll **probably be** here around 8.00. He usually leaves work at 7.30.
He **probably won't be** here until about 8.15. He's stuck in a traffic jam.
- 1 *bound* and *sure* are adjectives. We use *be bound* or *be sure* + *to* + infinitive to say that we think something is certain to be true or to happen.
- 2 *likely* and *unlikely* are also adjectives (not adverbs). We can use subject + *be likely / unlikely* + *to* + infinitive, or *it is likely / unlikely* + *that* + clause.
- 3 *definitely* and *probably* are adverbs. They go before a main verb and after the auxiliary if there is one in \square sentences and before the auxiliary in \square sentences.
- With *be* they go after the verb in \square sentences and before the verb in \square sentences, e.g. *He's probably British. The painting definitely isn't genuine.*

- a Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases.
- Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so he **won't likely be here** before 7.00. **X**
Jim didn't leave work until 6.00, so he's unlikely to be here before 7.00.
- 1 My glasses aren't in their usual place. **Someone must move them.**
 - 2 **A** Do you know where Emma is?
B **She should be in the library.** That's where she said she was going.
 - 3 **A** What's that noise in the garage?
B **I think it can be** the neighbour's cat.
 - 4 I'm sure Chelsea will win tonight. **They're unlikely to lose** three times in a row.
 - 5 I think you should delete that photo of Tina. **She won't definitely like it.**
 - 6 **Julian is bound be late** – he always is.
 - 7 No one's answering the phone at the shop. **I'd say they've probably gone home.**
 - 8 I don't think Marta has gone to bed yet. **I think she must still study.**
 - 9 **It's quite likely that the boss will retire** in a year or two.
- b Complete the sentences using the **bold** word.
- Perhaps Luke has got lost. He has no sense of direction. **might**
Luke *might have got lost*. He has no sense of direction.
- 1 I don't think he'll have time to call in and see us. He has a very tight schedule. **probably**
He _____ . He has a very tight schedule.
 - 2 I'm not sure she'll ever get over the break-up. **may**
She _____ the break-up.
 - 3 They will probably have heard the news by now. **ought**
They _____ now.
 - 4 I didn't leave my credit card in the restaurant. I remember putting it in my wallet. **can't**
I _____ .
I remember putting it in my wallet.
 - 5 I'm sure your sister will like the scarf – it's just her style. **bound**
Your sister _____ . It's just her style.
 - 6 The company director probably won't resign, despite the disastrous sales figures. **unlikely**
The company director _____ , despite the disastrous sales figures.
 - 7 I'm sure he was in love with her, otherwise he wouldn't have married her. **must**
He _____ , otherwise he wouldn't have married her.
 - 8 Are you sure you locked the back door? **definitely**
Did _____ lock the back door?
 - 9 According to press reports, the couple will probably get divorced soon. **likely**
According to press reports, it's _____ soon.