



Inversion 2

Grammar > Advanced 8



Exercise 1 – Learning

In this lesson: **Inversions With Negative Adverbials**

'**Negative adverbials**' are used at the beginning of a sentence in order to make it more emphatic or dramatic. Compare the following set of sentences for the given situation:

Situation: At the park, I sat down to play chess with an old man.

I did not know that he was a professional chess player.

This sentence is a simple statement of fact: You were not aware of something.

Little did I know that he was a professional chess player!

This sentence, however, is much more dramatic: The old man was so good at chess, he surpassed your expectations.



How to use Negative Adverbials

Negative adverbial sentences take this form:

negative adverbial + helping verb + subject + verb

The most common negative adverbials are '**not only**', '**not until**', '**never**' and '**little**'.

I have never seen such a beautiful sight. → **Never have I seen** such a beautiful sight!

I did not know that he was a professional chess player. → **Little did I know** that he was a professional chess player.



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. _____ does she know that we organized a surprise party for her.

- a) Little
- b) Not only

2. _____ have I been at such a great concert.

- a) Never
- b) Not only

3. _____ do I know how to drive a car, but I can also drive a boat.

- a) Little
- b) Not only

4. _____ he came to visit did I know how much I had missed him.

- a) Not until
- b) Little



5. _____ has she felt so ill in her life.

- a) Not only
- b) Never

6. _____ did they understand what it takes to be a pilot.

- a) Little
- b) Never

7. _____ is she smart, but pretty too!

- a) Little
- b) Not only

8. _____ he showed up did the real party start.

- a) Not until
- b) Never



Exercise 3 – Rephrasing

Rephrase the following sentences so they include negative adverbials.

Example: I have never been so disappointed. → Never have I been so disappointed.

Content:

1. I have never seen such a rainy day.
2. They were not only late, but they also forgot to bring the camera.
3. We have never had to run for such a long time.
4. He not only stole, but he also broke a window.
5. I have never seen such beautiful scenery.
6. We are not only making cakes, we are also making cookies.
7. I did not know he was a professional chef.
8. I have never realized how difficult it is to understand that.