

# Emphatic Structures – Worksheet 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: / 39



Do this worksheet  
online and check your  
answers instantly

## Exercise 1: Emphatic do and inversion

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the words in brackets. Use emphatic do or inversion.

**Example:** I \_\_\_ (want) to help, I just don't have time. → do want

1. I know you think I forgot, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (send) the email yesterday.
2. She rarely shows it, but she \_\_\_\_\_ (care) about her students.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) down, please – you must be exhausted.
4. Never before \_\_\_\_\_ (I / see) such a beautiful sunset – it's breathtaking!
5. Little \_\_\_\_\_ (they / know) that the house was about to be sold.
6. Not only \_\_\_\_\_ (she / speak) five languages, but she also writes poetry in two of them.
7. No sooner \_\_\_\_\_ (we / arrive) than it started to pour with rain.
8. Only after the results came out \_\_\_\_\_ (he / realise) how close he had been.

## Exercise 2: Cleft sentences

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Use each word once. There are two extra words.

### WORD BOX

what it all reason thing who place very much so

9. \_\_\_\_\_ happened was that the train broke down halfway there.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ was my grandmother who taught me to cook.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ I did was ask a simple question, and she got really angry.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ why I left early was that I felt unwell.
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ that annoys me most is people talking during films.
14. Was it Marco \_\_\_\_\_ broke the printer?
15. Hokkaido is the \_\_\_\_\_ where we first met.
16. That's the \_\_\_\_\_ book I've been looking for all week!

### Exercise 3: Rewrite with a cleft sentence

*Rewrite each sentence so that it begins with the words given. Keep the meaning the same.*

**Example:** Sara lost the keys. (Begin: It was ...) → It was Sara who lost the keys.

17. Paolo designed the new logo. (Begin: It was ...)

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18. I love the silence most. (Begin: What I love most ...)

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19. We didn't meet in London. (Begin: It wasn't in London ...)

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20. Did Hana call you last night? (Begin: Was it ...)

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21. He needs a bit of encouragement. (Begin: What he needs ...)

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22. I only want a quiet evening at home. (Begin: All I ...)

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23. They cancelled the concert because of the storm. (Begin: The reason ...)

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24. When did you decide to become a vet? (Begin: When was it ...)

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### Exercise 4: Rewrite with inversion

*Rewrite each sentence so that it begins with the words given. Use inversion.*

**Example:** I have never been so embarrassed. (Begin: Never ...) → Never have I been so embarrassed.

25. She had hardly sat down when the phone rang. (Begin: Hardly ...)

---

26. You should not open this door under any circumstances. (Begin: Under no circumstances ...)

---

27. I didn't realise how serious the problem was until later. (Begin: Not until later ...)

---

28. He not only forgot my birthday but also lost my present. (Begin: Not only ...)

---

29. We had seldom seen such a crowd in the village. (Begin: Seldom ...)

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30. You will only understand the film if you watch it twice. (Begin: Only if ...)

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31. The guests didn't know that the chef was a famous actor. (Begin: Little ...)

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32. I had just closed the window when the storm started. (Begin: No sooner ...)

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### Exercise 5: Find and correct the mistake

*Each sentence has one mistake. Write the corrected sentence.*

33. Never I have seen such a mess in my life.

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34. It was in 2015 when they moved to Canada.

---

35. What I need are a strong cup of coffee.

---

36. She did told me about the party, but I forgot.

---

37. Only when he left did she realised how much she missed him.

---

38. Not until the lights went out we noticed the noise.

---

39. No sooner had the film started when the fire alarm went off.

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# Answer key – Emphatic Structures – Worksheet 1

## Exercise 1: Emphatic do and inversion

**1. did send**

Emphatic 'did' + base form stresses that something really happened in the past.

**2. does care**

Emphatic 'does' + base form contrasts with what people might think.

**3. Do sit**

'Do' before an imperative makes a polite, insistent invitation.

**4. have I seen**

After 'Never before' at the start, the auxiliary comes before the subject.

**5. did they know**

'Little' meaning 'not at all' is followed by inversion with 'did' in the past simple.

**6. does she speak**

'Not only' at the start requires inversion; the present simple uses 'does'.

**7. had we arrived**

'No sooner' is followed by past perfect inversion and then 'than'.

**8. did he realise**

Inversion happens in the main clause after 'Only after + clause'.

## Exercise 2: Cleft sentences

**9. What**

'What happened was (that)...' is a wh-cleft that focuses on an event.

**10. It**

An it-cleft starts with 'It + be' to focus on one element.

**11. All**

'All I did was...' means 'the only thing I did was', stressing how little it was.

**12. reason**

'The reason why ... is/was that ...' focuses on a cause.

**13. thing**

'The thing that ... is ...' works like a wh-cleft.

**14. who**

In it-cleft questions, 'who' or 'that' introduces the clause after a person.

**15. place**

'The place where ...' emphasises a location.

**16. very**

'The very' + noun emphasises that it is exactly that thing.

## Exercise 3: Rewrite with a cleft sentence

**17. It was Paolo who designed the new logo.**

It + was + focused person + who/that + rest of the clause.

**18. What I love most is the silence.**

Wh-cleft: What + clause + is + focused element.

**19. It wasn't in London that we met.**

In negative it-clefts, the negation goes on 'be' and the verb in the clause is positive.

**20. Was it Hana who called you last night?**

In it-cleft questions, 'be' comes before 'it' and the clause keeps normal word order.

**21. What he needs is a bit of encouragement.**

The wh-clause is singular, so it is followed by 'is'.

**22. All I want is a quiet evening at home.**

'All I want is...' means 'the only thing I want is...'

**23. The reason they cancelled the concert was the storm.**

The reviewer's answer was already accepted, since 'The reason (why/that) + clause + was + noun' correctly puts the focus on the cause; the missing American-spelling variant with 'that' has been added.

**24. When was it that you decided to become a vet?**

Question word + was it + that + clause in normal word order.

#### Exercise 4: Rewrite with inversion

25. **Hardly had she sat down when the phone rang.**

'Hardly' + past perfect inversion, followed by 'when'.

26. **Under no circumstances should you open this door.**

'Under no circumstances' is negative, so the modal comes before the subject.

27. **Not until later did I realise how serious the problem was.**

After 'Not until...', use auxiliary + subject + base form.

28. **Not only did he forget my birthday, but he also lost my present.**

Only the 'Not only' clause is inverted; the 'but (also)' clause keeps normal order.

29. **Seldom had we seen such a crowd in the village.**

'Seldom' at the start triggers inversion with the existing auxiliary 'had'.

30. **Only if you watch it twice will you understand the film.**

After 'Only if + clause', the main clause is inverted.

31. **Little did the guests know that the chef was a famous actor.**

'Little did + subject + know' stresses complete lack of awareness.

32. **No sooner had I closed the window than the storm started.**

'No sooner had + subject + past participle ... than' shows one event immediately after another.

#### Exercise 5: Find and correct the mistake

33. **Never have I seen such a mess in my life.**

After 'Never' at the start, the auxiliary must come before the subject.

34. **It was in 2015 that they moved to Canada.**

When the focus is a prepositional phrase like 'in 2015', the cleft uses 'that'.

35. **What I need is a strong cup of coffee.**

A singular complement after a wh-clause takes 'is'.

36. **She did tell me about the party, but I forgot.**

Emphatic 'did' is followed by the base form of the verb.

37. **Only when he left did she realise how much she missed him.**

After inverted 'did', the main verb is in the base form.

38. **Not until the lights went out did we notice the noise.**

The main clause after 'Not until + clause' needs inversion.

39. **No sooner had the film started than the fire alarm went off.**

'No sooner' is paired with 'than', not 'when'.

**Notes for teachers:** Start by contrasting a neutral sentence with its emphatic versions so learners see how the focus shifts, then use the exercises in order. Typical mistakes include forgetting the auxiliary in inversion (\*Never I have seen\*), using the past form after emphatic did (\*did told\*), using 'when' instead of 'than' after 'No sooner', and making the verb agree with the complement in wh-clefts. As a follow-up, ask learners to write a short, dramatic story opening that uses at least five different emphatic structures.