

Inversion (Never have I..., Not only...) – Test 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30



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Choose the one correct option (A–D) for each question.

Part 1: Negative and restrictive adverbials

Choose the option that correctly completes each sentence or answers the question.

- Never _____ such a breathtaking view from a hotel window.
A I have seen B did I saw C have I seen D I saw
- Not only _____ the report on time, but she also presented it brilliantly.
A she finished B did she finish C she did finish D finished she
- Hardly _____ the house when it started to rain heavily.
A we had left B we left C had we leave D had we left
- No sooner had the film started _____ the power went out.
A than B when C that D then
- Rarely _____ so much enthusiasm from a group of beginners.
A teachers see B see teachers C do teachers see D teachers do see
- Little _____ that the meeting had already been cancelled.
A Marco realised B did Marco realise C realised Marco D had Marco realise
- Under no circumstances _____ to leave the building during the fire drill.
A visitors are allowed B visitors allowed
C allowed are visitors D are visitors allowed
- Seldom _____ complained about his workload, even during the busiest months.
A has he B he has C he D does he
- Not until I moved abroad _____ how much I missed my family's cooking.
A I understood B I did understand C did I understand D understood I
- Which sentence is correct?
A Only after the results were published the team celebrated.
B Only after the results were published did the team celebrate.
C Only after were the results published the team celebrated.
D Only after did the results were published the team celebrate.

Part 2: Conditional inversion, So/Such and Neither/Nor

Choose the option that correctly completes each sentence or answers the question.

- _____ you need any further information, please contact our office.
A Would B Had C Were D Should

12. _____ I known about the traffic, I would have taken the train.
A Had **B** Have **C** If **D** Would
13. _____ the company to relocate, many employees would resign.
A Should **B** Had **C** Were **D** If
14. Which sentence correctly inverts: "If it hadn't been for your help, we would have failed"?
A Hadn't it been for your help, we would have failed.
B Had it not been for your help, we would have failed.
C Had not it been for your help, we would have failed.
D Had it been not for your help, we would have failed.
15. So _____ that nobody could hear the speaker.
A was the music loud **B** the music was loud **C** loud the music was **D** loud was the music
16. Such _____ that the event sold out in less than an hour.
A was the demand **B** the demand was **C** demand was **D** was demand so
17. I don't enjoy horror films, and neither _____ my sister.
A do **B** is **C** does **D** doesn't
18. "Carmen can't swim." " _____ "
A Nor I can. **B** Nor can I. **C** Neither I can't. **D** Nor can't I.
19. Only by working together _____ this problem.
A we will solve **B** we solve **C** solve we will **D** will we solve
20. Not once _____ me for my help during the whole project.
A did Aisha thank **B** Aisha thanked **C** thanked Aisha **D** did Aisha thanked

Part 3: Errors, meaning and transformation

Find the error, choose the sentence with the same meaning, or choose the correct transformation.

21. Find the error: "Never before I have tasted such delicious bread."
A Never before **B** I have **C** tasted **D** such delicious
22. Choose the sentence closest in meaning: "As soon as I sat down, the phone rang."
A No sooner I had sat down than the phone rang.
B Hardly had I sat down than the phone rang.
C No sooner had I sat down than the phone rang.
D No sooner did the phone ring than I sat down.
23. Find the error: "Only when the guests had left we started to tidy up."
A Only when **B** had left **C** we started **D** to tidy up
24. Which sentence correctly rewrites: "She is not only talented but also hard-working"?
A Not only she is talented, but she is also hard-working.
B Not only does she talented, but she is also hard-working.
C Not only is she talented, but also is she hard-working.
D Not only is she talented, but she is also hard-working.
25. Which sentence is correct?
A Only did Leila know the answer. **B** Only Leila knew the answer.
C Only knew Leila the answer. **D** Only Leila did she know the answer.

26. Find the error: "Not until the end of the film did we realised who the thief was."
A Not until **B** did we **C** realised **D** who the thief was
27. What does this sentence mean? "Little did they know that their small café would become famous."
A They knew a little about how to make the café famous.
B They knew the café would become famous.
C They were not interested in the café becoming famous.
D They had no idea the café would become famous.
28. Complete the transformation: "You should not touch the exhibits at any time." → "At no time _____ the exhibits."
A should you touch **B** you should touch
C should you not touch **D** you shouldn't touch
29. Find the error: "Hardly had the concert begun than the singer forgot the words."
A Hardly **B** had **C** begun **D** than
30. Complete the formal version: "If you don't receive the parcel by Friday, please call us." → "
_____ the parcel by Friday, please call us."
A Shouldn't you receive **B** Should you not receive
C Should not you receive **D** Should you don't receive

Answer key – Inversion (Never have I..., Not only...) – Test 1

1 C	2 B	3 D	4 A	5 C	6 B	7 D	8 A	9 C	10 B
11 D	12 A	13 C	14 B	15 D	16 A	17 C	18 B	19 D	20 A
21 B	22 C	23 C	24 D	25 B	26 C	27 D	28 A	29 D	30 B

Explanations

- C** – After a fronted negative adverbial like Never, the auxiliary comes before the subject: have I seen.
- B** – Fronted Not only requires auxiliary–subject inversion; with the past simple we add did: did she finish.
- D** – Hardly ... when is normally used with the past perfect and inversion: had we left.
- A** – No sooner is always followed by than, not when.
- C** – Rarely at the start of a clause triggers inversion with the auxiliary do in the present simple.
- B** – Little (meaning 'not at all') triggers inversion: did + subject + base form.
- D** – Under no circumstances is a negative phrase, so the auxiliary be comes before the subject.
- A** – Seldom requires inversion, and the past participle complained needs the auxiliary have: has he.
- C** – With Not until, the inversion happens in the main clause: did I understand.
- B** – After Only after + clause, inversion is used in the main clause, not in the time clause.
- D** – Should + subject + base form replaces If in formal first conditional sentences.
- A** – Had + subject + past participle replaces If I had known in third conditional sentences.
- C** – Were + subject + to-infinitive is an inverted form of If the company were to relocate.
- B** – In inverted conditionals the negative is not contracted and goes after the subject: Had it not been.
- D** – In this structure So + adjective is fronted, followed by the verb and then the subject.
- A** – Fronted Such is followed by be and then the subject: Such was the demand.
- C** – Neither + positive auxiliary + subject; my sister is third person singular, so does.
- B** – Nor is followed by a positive auxiliary and then the subject: Nor can I.
- D** – Only by + -ing at the start of a sentence requires inversion: will we solve.
- A** – Not once triggers inversion, and after did the main verb is in the base form.
- B** – After Never before, the auxiliary must come before the subject: have I.
- C** – No sooner had I sat down than... keeps the meaning and uses the correct inversion and linker.
- C** – The main clause after Only when needs inversion: did we start.
- D** – Only the Not only clause is inverted; the but also clause keeps normal word order.
- B** – When Only modifies the subject (Only Leila), there is no inversion.
- C** – After the auxiliary did, the main verb must be in the base form: realise.
- D** – Little did they know means they did not know at all.
- A** – At no time is already negative and triggers inversion, so no extra not is needed.
- D** – Hardly is followed by when, not than; than goes with No sooner.
- B** – In negative inverted conditionals, not follows the subject and is not contracted: Should you not receive.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching formal and emphatic inversion, or as a diagnostic before a C1 exam. It targets frequent errors such as missing auxiliaries (Never I have...), wrong verb forms after did (did we realised), mixing No sooner...than with Hardly...when, inverting in the wrong clause after Not until / Only when, and over-inverting when Only modifies the subject. As a follow-up, ask students to rewrite a short neutral text using five different inversion structures.