

INVERSION STRUCTURES

1) Negative adverbial expressions:

a) seldom, rarely, never, hardly, scarcely, no sooner, only

They need an auxiliary before the main verb. Examples:

-Seldom did we eat in such expensive restaurants.

-Never have I seen a bigger pair of idiots.

-Rarely have I felt so ridiculous.

b) Hardly/Scarcely + WHEN

No Sooner + THAN

These are used at the beginning of a sentence to talk about one thing happening after another. Examples:

-Hardly had I started work when the new boss arrived.

-Scarcely had I put down the receiver when the phone rang again.

-No sooner had she had her first baby than the second was due.

2) Dramatic effect:

a) Adverbial expressions at the beginning of a sentence.

-Where the money goes, I don't know.

-Over the hill passed those black clouds.

b) AS

-He was hooked on cocaine as were most of his friends.

3) Conditionals:

a) In open conditionals, IF can be substituted by SHOULD.

-Should you come to London, you must visit me.

b) In hypothetical conditionals in present WERE can replace IF.

-Were I given such a lot of money, I wouldn't know what to do with it.

c) In past hypothetical conditionals HAD can replace IF.

-Had I known you were coming, I would have cooked something better.

4) ONLY / NO / LITTLE

At the beginning of the sentence, they make it more formal and/or emphatic.

- Little did they know that alcohol could have such an effect.*
- Only after eating up the food did he say a word.*
- On no account would I lend him any money.*

5) EXCLAMATIONS

Very often in the negative form.

- Isn't she stupid!*
- Am I angry!*

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Underline inversion structures in this letter:

Dear sirs,
I wish to point out my dissatisfaction to those concerned with the marketing, distribution and quality control of your wine.

Had I purchased a carton of Don Simon, I would not find myself writing this letter now. Only after trying to drink your wine did I regret my choice. Life offers a number of pleasures, your wine has counted among them until recently. Under no circumstances would I now consider purchasing your product again.

After opening the first bottle, which tasted like vinegar, I was somewhat disappointed. However, seldom have I felt so cheated as when I found that the whole case, of twelve, tasted the same. When one considers that a bottle of your wine is 50 euros, I think, never in the history of mankind could vinegar have cost so much.

Not only do I feel disappointed but I also have the sensation of having been robbed. Should it be the norm that your wine tastes as previously mentioned, I care for no compensation. However, should this not be the case, I would like to demand some recompense not only for my capital outlay but also for the severe disappointment I received.

Yours faithfully.