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Advanced Fronting and Inversion

Hard | C2 | Proficiency | Adjective | Adverb | Auxiliary verb | Clause | Complex sentence | Conditional sentence | Inversion | Modal verb | Negation | Participle | Past tense | Sentence | Subjunctive mood | Verb | Perfect tense | Word order

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1. Help the dramatic theater critic complete her scathing review of last night's disastrous play by choosing the correct phrasing for each gap.

Not until the lead actor tripped over a prop tree _____ that the play was supposed to be a tragedy, not a comedy.

So _____ that several audience members began reading the safety instructions on the back of their seats just to stay entertained.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** I realized
- **B)** did I realize
- **C)** had I realized

Blank 2

- **A)** abysmal the dialogue was
- **B)** was abysmal the dialogue
- **C)** abysmal was the dialogue

2. Choose the correct phrase to complete the detective's dramatic memoir.

Only when Inspector Clouseau tasted the crumbs _____ that the deadly weapon was, in fact, a slightly stale baguette.

Select one.

- **A)** he realized
- **B)** realized he
- **C)** did he realize
- **D)** did he realized

3. Complete the travel blogger's slightly traumatizing diary entry by choosing the correct phrase for each blank.

Right in the middle of our campsite _____, staring judgingly at my bowl of instant noodles.

I immediately realized that under no circumstances _____ any sudden movements toward my breakfast.

Meanwhile, hidden beneath the ferns _____, completely soaked in mud and now totally illegible.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** stood a massive gorilla
- **B)** a massive gorilla stood
- **C)** did a massive gorilla stand

Blank 2

- **A)** should I make
- **B)** I should make
- **C)** should make I

Blank 3

- **A)** lay our only map
- **B)** our only map lay
- **C)** did our only map lie

4. Complete the time-traveler's regretful diary entry by selecting ALL the grammatically correct inverted conditional phrases that fit the blank.

"_____, I would never have pressed the big red button that sent me to the Jurassic period."

Select all that apply.

A) Had I known the dinosaur was awake
B) If had I realized the consequences
C) Were I to have guessed the terrifying outcome
D) Had I been informed about the angry T-Rex
E) Did I know the extreme danger

5. Help the exhausted Resident Advisor complete the new dorm rules poster.

Under no circumstances _____ the communal microwave to dry your wet socks, as it will inevitably summon the fire department again.

Select one.

A) you should attempt to use
B) attempt you to use
C) should you attempt to use
D) did you attempt to use

6. A fantasy novelist is trying to add some epic flair to a battle scene. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use locative or participle fronting with full inversion!

Select all that apply.

A) Atop the crumbling tower stood the ancient wizard, staff in hand.
B) Out of the dark cavern flew it with a terrifying roar.
C) Hidden beneath the floorboards was a chest of cursed gold.
D) Down the spiral staircase did the armored knight tumble.
E) Beside the iron throne sat the usurper king.

7. Help the dramatic detective complete his official report about the Great Bakery Heist by choosing the correct phrase for each blank.

The chief noted that not only _____ the baker's prized golden croissant, but the scoundrel also left a mocking note.

He furiously added that _____ the perimeter sooner, this sugary tragedy might have been avoided.

We all agreed that so cunning _____ that even our own guard dogs stood up and applauded.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) did the thief steal
B) the thief stole
C) stole the thief

Blank 2

A) had the police secured
B) if the police secured
C) did the police secure

Blank 3

A) was the criminal's escape
B) the criminal's escape was
C) did the criminal's escape

8. Help the dramatic food critic polish his latest scathing review. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use fronting and inversion to express his outrage!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Not only did the chef burn the soufflé, but he also insulted my tie.
- **B)** Under no circumstances you should eat the mystery meatloaf.
- **C)** Rarely have I experienced such profound disappointment in a dessert.
- **D)** Little the waiter knew that I was a disguised Michelin inspector.
- **E)** On no account should the soup be served at room temperature.

9. Complete the fantasy novelist's draft by selecting the most dramatic (and grammatically correct) phrasing for her epic climax.

_____ the dragon was so friendly, the brave knight wouldn't have brought her giant, enchanted flyswatter to the cave.

Such _____ that the royal guards immediately put down their swords and invited it for afternoon tea.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** She had known
- **B)** Did she know
- **C)** Had she known

Blank 2

- **A)** the beast's polite demeanor was
- **B)** was the beast's polite demeanor
- **C)** was polite the beast's demeanor

10. Help the professor complete his bewildered diary entry.

So absurd _____ that even the class guinea pig seemed to roll its eyes.

Select one.

- **A)** was his excuse
- **B)** his excuse was
- **C)** did his excuse be
- **D)** was excuse his