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# Basics. Inversion After Negative Adverbs

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Adverb | Auxiliary verb | Clause | Conjunction | Inversion | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Verb tense | Word order

**1.** Help the exhausted explorer finish his dramatic diary entry by choosing the correct verb phrase for each gap.

Looking back at the expedition, little _____ that our guide's map was completely upside down. We were explicitly warned that under no circumstances _____ the sleeping hippos. It was a true nightmare; scarcely _____ our tents when the monsoon rains began to pour.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

**A)** we knew
**B)** did we know
**C)** had we knew

**Blank 2**

**A)** we must approach
**B)** must we approach
**C)** must approach we

**Blank 3**

**A)** we had pitched
**B)** had we pitched
**C)** did we pitched

**2.** Read the secret agent's debriefing report about her latest mission. Select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct.

*Select all that apply.*

**A)** No sooner had the helicopter landed than the villain deployed the laser-equipped sharks.
**B)** Hardly had the agent deactivated the bomb when the facility's alarm started blaring.
**C)** Scarcely had she picked the electronic lock than the security cameras turned toward her.
**D)** Not until the smoke finally cleared did we realize the priceless diamond was missing.
**E)** Only later we discovered that the mayor's pet poodle was the true mastermind.

**3.** Complete the eccentric scientist's very strict (and slightly terrifying) lab safety manual by selecting the grammatically correct option.

Under no circumstances _____ the giant red button labeled "DO NOT PUSH."

*Select one.*

**A)** you should press
**B)** you shouldn't press
**C)** should you press
**D)** should you to press

**4.** Professor Higgins is known for his terrifyingly strict syllabus. Choose ALL the rules that use correct grammatical inversion.

*Select all that apply.*

**A)** On no account will late assignments be accepted, even if your dog ate your laptop.
**B)** Under no circumstances are students permitted to text during my notoriously long lectures.
**C)** In no way I will tolerate whispering in the back row of the auditorium.
**D)** Not only you must read the textbook, but you must also memorize the footnotes.
**E)** Nowhere else will you find a more rigorous and intellectually demanding academic experience.

**5.** Finish the detective's thrilling novel about a spectacularly clumsy cat burglar. Choose the correct words to fill the gap.

Little _____ that the "priceless diamond" he just stole was actually a shiny piece of plastic from a board game.

*Select one.*

- **A)** did he know
- **B)** he knew
- **C)** he did know
- **D)** knew he

**6.** Complete the food critic's dramatic review of a disastrous restaurant opening by choosing the correct phrase for each blank.

As a professional critic, rarely _____ such a culinary catastrophe. Furthermore, I must warn my readers that on no account _____ the "mystery meat" special. Not only _____ the dessert, but he also came out to the dining room and blamed the oven!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** I have witnessed
- **B)** have I witnessed
- **C)** did I witnessed

**Blank 2**

- **A)** you should order
- **B)** should you order
- **C)** should you to order

**Blank 3**

- **A)** the chef ruined
- **B)** did the chef ruin
- **C)** ruined the chef

**7.** Help the food critic finalize her dramatic review of a disastrous baking competition. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use grammatical inversion for emphasis.

*Select all that apply.*

- **A)** Not only did the chef drop the wedding cake, but he also accidentally stepped on it.
- **B)** Under no circumstances you should eat the neon green mystery meatloaf.
- **C)** Never before had I seen a chocolate soufflé deflate with such a sad little sigh.
- **D)** Little did the judges know that the secret ingredient was actually catnip.
- **E)** No sooner the timer rang than the oven door blew completely off its hinges.

**8.** Complete this furious traveler's one-star hotel review by choosing the grammatically correct words for each gap.

Hardly _____ into the grand lobby _____ the crystal chandelier crashed to the floor. Seldom _____ such utter chaos on a vacation! The manager offered us free breakfast as an apology, but let me warn you: under no circumstances _____ the "mystery meat" at their buffet!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** had we stepped
- **B)** we had stepped
- **C)** did we stepped

**Blank 2**

- **A)** when
- **B)** than
- **C)** then

**Blank 3**

- **A)** have I experienced
- **B)** I have experienced
- **C)** did I experienced

**Blank 4**

- **A)** should you eat
- **B)** you should eat
- **C)** should eat you

**9.** Help the dramatic head chef write his scathing review of a disastrous new kitchen gadget. Choose the correct phrase to complete his sentence.

Not only _____ the soup, but it also launched hot carrots across the dining room!

*Select one.*

- **A)** it ruined
- **B)** ruined it
- **C)** did it ruin
- **D)** did it ruined

**10.** Help the dramatic detective finish his final case report by selecting the correct option for each blank.

Little _____ that the sweet old librarian was actually an international art thief. Not only _____ the famous painting with a clever forgery, but she had also framed the mayor! No sooner _____ enough evidence to arrest her _____ she vanished through a secret trapdoor behind the poetry section.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- **A)** I suspected
- **B)** did I suspect
- **C)** do I suspect

**Blank 2**

- **A)** had she replaced
- **B)** she had replaced
- **C)** did she replaced

**Blank 3**

- **A)** had I gathered
- **B)** I had gathered
- **C)** did I gathered

**Blank 4**

- **A)** than
- **B)** when
- **C)** then