

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