**Inversion**

Why use inversion when I can write a sentence without it?

We use inversion to **emphasize** the adverbial phrase in a sentence.

Inversion is usually used in more formal texts.

[Negative Adverb] + [Auxiliary Verb] + [Subject]

Note: the word order is the same as the question form.

Not once **did** she **look** up from her book.

 Not for one minute **do** I **believe** you.

 No sooner **had** he **come** into the room than he started teaching.

 Nowhere **could** I **find** examples of this.

We do not use auxiliary verbs when the main verb is the verb *to be* or a modal verb.

 Not only **is** he a great musician, but he can also teach.

Inversion can be used after restrictive words like *never, rarely, little, hardly/barely,* etc.

 Never before **had** he **seen** such a beautiful vase.

 Not since yesterday **have** I **worked** this hard.

We also use inversion with phrases beginning with *only*. These emphasize the first clause.

 Only when I heard her speak **did** I **remember** her.

 Only if you give me a good example **can** you **leave**.

 Only later **did** I **discover** that my sample was contaminated.

We use *no way* + inversion to show that something is impossible or that the speaker doesn’t want to do something. This is informal.

 No way **would** I **do** a bungee jump!

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Not once…

 Not for one minute…

 No sooner… than…

 Nowhere…

 Not only…

 Never before…

 \*Not since \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …

 \*Only when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ …

 \*Only if \_\_\_\_\_\_ …

 Only later …

 No way …

\*(The underlined part indicates that the adverbial phrase is not complete yet. The inversion doesn’t come until after the whole adverbial phrase.)