

6th unit, 29 April 2025

Negative inversion

Negative inversion is a grammatical structure where a negative or limiting expression comes at the beginning of the sentence, causing an inversion of the subject and auxiliary verb (like in questions).

Here are five examples:

Never have I seen such a beautiful sunset.

(Instead of: I have never seen such a beautiful sunset.)

Rarely do we get a chance to meet someone so talented.

(Instead of: We rarely get a chance to meet someone so talented.)

Not until she apologized did he forgive her.

(Instead of: He didn't forgive her until she apologized.)

Under no circumstances should you open this door.

(Instead of: You should not open this door under any circumstances.)

No sooner had I sat down than the phone rang.

(Instead of: I had no sooner sat down than the phone rang.)