



Inversion

Inversion of the subject and the verb not only occurs in questions (Example: Are you going to class?) but also in formal statements. (Example: At no time was I told that attendance was mandatory.)

Little did: This inversion means “had no idea.” (Example: Little did they know that they would win a car that night. – They had no idea that they would win a car.)

Only after/Only when: When “only after” or “only when” appears before an inversion, it means “not until.” (Example: Only after she left the house did she realize that it was raining.)

No sooner: When “no sooner” appears before an inversion, it means “almost at the same time.” (Example: No sooner had you washed your car when it started to rain. – You washed your car and, very shortly after, it started to rain.)

At no time: When “at no time” comes before an inversion, it means “never”. (Example: At no time was I informed of this extra charge. – I was never told about this extra charge.)

Inversion and Conditional Sentences: Conditional sentences can be rewritten as formal statements using inversion. (Example: “If you need advice, please contact me.” Can be rewritten as “Should you need advice, please contact me.”)