

INVERSION EXERCISES

Rewrite the following sentences using inversion.

1. The students didn't know that the teacher had been closely watching them cheat.

Little _____.

2. We will not be able to consider you for the swim team until you beat the time trials.

Not until _____.

3. Nobody has lost so many games since 1992.

Not since _____.

4. You can't enter the building under any circumstances once the demolition next door has begun.

Under no circumstances _____.

5. I would never sing in front of a live audience again.

Never _____.

6. She had not enjoyed herself so much since she went on vacation with her family while in high school.

Not since _____.

7. I have never seen such an awesome rendition of the musical Cats before.

Never before _____.

8. They only realized the appetizers were still frozen when someone complained at reception.

Only when _____.

9. I had been in the building for a few minutes when I noticed that the man was staring at me.

Only after _____.

10. He discovered that he had forgotten his homework when he pulled into the school parking lot.

Only when _____.

1. Little did the students know the teacher had been closely watching them cheat.
2. Not until you beat the time trials will we be able to consider you for the swim team.
3. Not since 1992 had anybody lost so many games.
4. Under no circumstances can you enter the building once the demolition next door has begun.
5. Never again would I sing in front of a live audience.
6. Not since she had gone on vacation with her family in high school had she enjoyed herself so much.
7. Never before have I seen such an awesome rendition of the musical Cats.
8. Only when somebody complained at the reception did they realize the appetizers were still frozen.
9. Only after I had been in the building for a few minutes did I notice that a man was staring at me.
10. Only when he pulled into the school parking lot did he discover that he had forgotten his homework.

ANSWER KEY:

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Choose the correct answer for each question.

___ 1. _____ that I was going to be driving cross country to deliver a puppy to my brother.

- A. Little have I known
- B. Little did I know
- C. Little I knew
- D. I knew little

___ 2. In no way _____ question her ability to pass the exam, although I do believe she should have prepared better.

- A. did I ever
- B. I ever did
- C. had I ever
- D. I had ever

___ 3. Hardly _____ we were told that we needed to pack up to head to the bus.

- A. we had finished breakfast that
- B. had we finished breakfast that
- C. had we finished breakfast when
- D. we had finished breakfast when

___ 4. At no time before I showed up to work _____ that I would have to park in the far lot due to a construction project.

- A. did they told
- B. I was told
- C. I had been told
- D. was I told

___ 5. Not since the third grade _____ excited about a birthday party.

- A. so many people I have
- B. have I seen so many people
- C. did so many people I have
- D. had so many people I had

ANSWER KEY:
1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. B

INVERSION EXERCISES

Complete using the list of words and phrases.

At no point, in no way, little, never, not, not only, no sooner, only after, scarcely, on no account, rarely, under no circumstances

- _____ were the students to blame for the broken door.
- _____ once did he ever give me credit for all the work I did in that house.
- _____ making an appointment with the professor was Sara able to set a final exam date to complete the course.
- _____ will my elementary-age child be allowed to watch a rated-R movie.
- _____ were they late to class, but they also came unprepared.
- _____ during the brunch, did anyone notice that Mary left and never came back?
- _____ had Jonathon arrived at the wedding when he was paged to respond to a fire emergency.
- _____ did she know that the teacher was really an actor and the entire class was set up as a hoax to trick the department head.
- _____ will you meet anyone as nice as my grandson.
- _____ should permit driver's license holders to be allowed to drive minors unaccompanied.
- _____ before has the golf team found itself facing such stiff competition.
- _____ had he turned off the lights that the dog started barking.

ANSWER KEY:
1. In no way
2. Not
3. Only after
4. Under no circumstances
5. Not only
6. At no point
7. Scarcely
8. Little
9. Rarely
10. On no account
11. Never before
12. No sooner