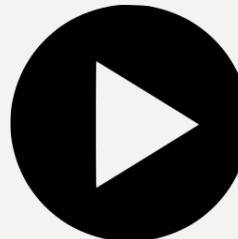


# Prepare for {IELTS}

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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Inversion

### PART 1

Prepare for {IELTS}

# EXPLANATION

- INVERSION happens when we put the subject after the verb in a sentence. You already use INVERSION in questions. For example, in the question **Is climate change inevitable?**, the verb **is** comes before the subject **climate change**.
- INVERSION can be used in ways which do not involve questions. It can often be used to emphasize a whole sentence or to emphasize information in a sentence. For example, the sentence **Rarely if ever has our species faced a threat to its survival as serious as global warming** emphasizes the fact that this threat is very serious, and makes the issue seem more important than in the sentence **Our species has rarely if ever faced a threat to its survival as serious as global warming**.

# EXPLANATION

- **INVERSION** is not very common in English, so you should not try to use it in every sentence. However, it can be both very academic and formal. One sentence containing **INVERSION** in an IELTS essay can really impress the examiner.
- You will see that when we use **INVERSION**, the verb is usually in the same form as it would be in a question. For example, we write **My sister wears glasses, as does my mother.** We do not write **My sister wears glasses, as wears my mother.** The verb **does** is used in the same way as it would be used in the question **Does your mother wear glasses?**
- **INVERSION** can be used in **comparative** and **conditional** forms and in some **negative** expressions.

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used after **as** and **than** in comparative forms:

- The questionnaire indicates that male employees take more time off work **than do their female colleagues.** ( = ...than their female colleague do / ...than their female colleagues)
- Doctors spend far more time studying for professional qualifications **than do teachers.** ( = ...than teachers do / ...than teachers)
- Nurses need to maintain a high level of professionalism, **as do social workers.** ( = ...and social workers also need to maintain a high level of professionalism)
- Most cats would eat steak if they found it in the kitchen, **as would most humans.** ( = ...and most humans would eat it too)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in comparative forms with such and so:

- Such is the unpopularity of the tax that the government has decided to withdraw it. (= The tax is so unpopular that...)
- So difficult is the job of being a brain-surgeon that only a tiny proportion of the population would be capable of doing it. (= The job of being a brain-surgeon is so difficult that...)
- So unsuccessful have been attempts to reduce the amount of time teenagers spend online that those trying to bring about this change have largely given up. (= Attempts to reduce the amount of time that teenagers spend online have been so unsuccessful that...)
- My sister can sing, and so can I.

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in other comparative forms:

- Experts do not generally believe in the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects carrying little green men from other solar systems, and neither/nor do the rest of us. ( = ...and the rest of us also do not believe in this)
- Nutrition is vital. Just as important is exercise. ( = Exercise is just as important as nutrition)
- Inflation is a key indicator of an economy's health. Equally significant is the level of unemployment. ( = The level of unemployment is as significant as inflation)
- Being a lawyer is well-paid. No less lucrative is dentistry. ( = Dentistry is as lucrative as being a lawyer)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in some conditional sentences:

- **Were universities to cut the cost of their courses, they would probably receive more applicants.** ( = If universities were to cut the cost of their courses.../ If universities cut the cost of their courses...)
- **Were the elderly to be offered the chance to study, many would take up the opportunity with enthusiasm.** ( = If the elderly were to be offered the chance to study.../ If the elderly were offered the chance to study...)
- **Should you require more details, please do not hesitate to contact me.** ( = If you should require more details.../ If you require more details...)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in some conditional sentences:

- **Should the plane arrive early, please text me and I will come to the airport to pick you up.** ( = If the plane should arrive early.../ If the plane arrives early...)
- **Had the international community dealt with the issue of inequality in the past, there would probably have been fewer wars in the last couple of decades.** ( = If the international community had dealt with the issue of inequality in the past...)
- **Had governments taken the issue of mental health seriously in the past, the current crisis might have been averted.** ( = If governments had taken the issue of mental health seriously in the past...)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in some expressions with the word **no**:

- **In no way do children deserve to pay for their parents' mistakes.** ( = **Children do not deserve to pay for their parents' mistakes in any way**)
- **At no time should children below the age of ten be left at home alone.** ( = **Children below the age of ten should never be left at home alone**)
- **On no account must you tickle a tiger or cuddle a crocodile.** ( = **You must never tickle a tiger or cuddle a crocodile**)
- **Under no circumstances/conditions would I want to re-locate to another country.** ( = **There are no circumstances/conditions in/under which I would want to re-locate to another country**)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used before some negative adverbs:

- **Rarely do politicians tell the truth.** ( = Politicians rarely tell the truth)
- **Seldom are our political leaders honest.** ( = Our political leaders are seldom honest)
- **Scarcely/Barely had I arrived when he started shouting at me.** ( = I had only just arrived when he started shouting at me)
- **Hardly had I had time to start my lunch when the bus arrived.** ( = I had hardly had time to start my lunch when the bus arrived)
- **No sooner had I turned on the television than it exploded.** ( = As soon as I turned on the television, it exploded)

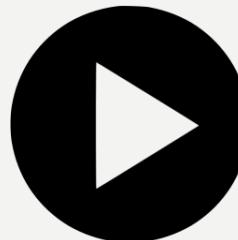


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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## Inversion

### PART 2

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# EXPLANATION

- INVERSION happens when we put the subject after the verb in a sentence. You already use INVERSION in questions. For example, in the question **Is climate change inevitable?**, the verb **is** comes before the subject **climate change**.
- INVERSION can be used in ways which do not involve questions. It can often be used to emphasize a whole sentence or to emphasize information in a sentence. For example, the sentence **Rarely if ever has our species faced a threat to its survival as serious as global warming** emphasizes the fact that this threat is very serious, and makes the issue seem more important than in the sentence **Our species has rarely if ever faced a threat to its survival as serious as global warming**.

# EXPLANATION

- **INVERSION** is not very common in English, so you should not try to use it in every sentence. However, it can be both very academic and formal. One sentence containing **INVERSION** in an IELTS essay can really impress the examiner.
- You will see that when we use **INVERSION**, the verb is usually in the same form as it would be in a question. For example, we write **My sister wears glasses, as does my mother.** We do not write **My sister wears glasses, as wears my mother.** The verb **does** is used in the same way as it would be used in the question **Does your mother wear glasses?**
- **INVERSION** can be used with expressions connected to **only, not** and **little**, and in expressions connected to **movement**.

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used after **only** + time expressions:

- **Only after accepting the job did I realize how difficult it would be.** ( = **I only realized how difficult the job would be after I accepted it**)
- **I believed him at the time and only later did I realize that he had been lying.** ( = **I believed him at the time but realized later that he had been lying**)
- **You need to graduate from medical school and only then can you work as a fully-qualified doctor.** ( = **You cannot work as a fully-qualified doctor until you have graduated from medical school**)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used after **only** + time expressions:

- **Only once did I eat octopus. It was a terrible experience which I do not intend to repeat.** ( = I only ate octopus once...)
- **Only after the war had finally finished did historians begin to examine the causes.** ( = Historians only began to examine the causes after the war had finished)
- **Only on very special occasions does the government invite a foreign leader to give a speech to parliament.** ( = The government only invites...on very special occasions)
- **Only when you have passed the exam can you start to apply for jobs.** ( = You can only start to apply for jobs when you have passed the exam)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used after **only + time expressions**:

- **Only when mental illness affects a close friend or family member do we realize how devastating it can be.** ( = We only realize how devastating mental illness can be when it affects a close friend or family member)
- **Only when crime affects us personally do we start to support the police's demand for better funding.** ( = We only start to support the police's demand for better funding when crime affects us personally)
- **Only when/once we get old can we truly develop wisdom.** ( = We can only truly develop wisdom when/once we get old)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in other expressions with only:

- Only in exceptional cases/circumstances can students entirely avoid paying their tuition fees to university. ( = Students can only entirely avoid paying their tuition fees to university in exceptional circumstances)
- Only by taking immediate action can we expect to deal with the issue of global warming. ( = We can only expect to deal with the issue of global warming if we take immediate action)
- Only by working hard can students expect to do well. ( = Students can only expect to do well if they work hard)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in other expressions with **only**:

- **Only by accident was penicillin discovered.** ( = Penicillin was only discovered by accident)
- **Only with a positive attitude will we succeed in life.** ( = We will only succeed in life if we have a positive attitude)
- **Only if we put great effort into everything we do can we expect rewards.** ( = We can only expect rewards if...)
- **Only if they genuinely feel there is some purpose to voting will ordinary citizens bother to go and vote.** ( = Ordinary citizens will only bother to go and vote if...)
- **Only if he had apologised would I have forgiven him.** ( = I would only have forgiven him if...)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used with expressions with not:

- **Not until we take youth crime seriously are we likely to reduce it.** ( = **We are not likely to reduce youth crime until we take it seriously**)
- **Not only have sales of motorcars increased, but sales of scooters have also gone up.** ( = **Sales of motorcars have increased, and sales of scooters have also gone up**)
- **Not only do we need to reduce inequality, but we also have to eradicate injustice.** ( = **We need to both reduce inequality and eradicate injustice**)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used with expressions with not:

- **Not since the year 2001 have living standards been so low.** ( = Living standards have not been so low since the year 2001)
- **Not for a single moment should we stop worrying about the possible repercussions of global warming.** ( = We should never stop worrying about the repercussions of global warming)
- **Not without a fight will we give up our rights.** ( = We will not give up our rights without a fight)
- **Not under any circumstances/conditions will we surrender.** ( = We will not surrender under any circumstances/conditions)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used in sentences starting with **little**:

- **Little do most of us know how lucky we are.** ( = **Most of us do not know how lucky we are**)
- **Little do we realize how devastating a pandemic could be.** ( = **We do not realize how devastating a pandemic could be**)
- **Little did smokers know that the cigarettes they loved were probably affecting their health, and the health of others.** ( = **Smokers did not know that the cigarettes they loved were probably affecting their health, and the health of others**)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used when we are speaking (but not writing) about things which are moving. We use this structure with words like **here; there; up; down; in; out; off; away**:

- **Here comes the sun!** ( = The sun is coming out)
- I told my boss how stupid I think she is. **There goes my chance of a pay-rise or a promotion.** ( = My chance of a pay-rise or a promotion has gone)
- The door opened and **in came her long-lost son.** ( = ...her long-lost son came in)

# INVERSION: USES

Inversion can be used when we are speaking (but not writing) about things which are moving. We use this structure with words like **here; there; up; down; in; out; off; away**:

- When the teacher asked if anyone wanted to try some authentic Colombian food, **up** went **all the hands**. ( = ...all the hands went up)
- Somebody shouted and **away** flew **all the birds**. ( = ...all the birds flew away)
- The band stopped playing and **away/off** went **the crowd**. ( = ...the crowd went away)



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## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences all contain inversion. Try to fill in the missing word in each sentence:

1. Lawyers spend much more time training for their qualifications than \_\_\_\_\_ teachers.
2. Surgeons need to maintain a high level of concentration, as \_\_\_\_\_ nurses.
3. So stressful \_\_\_\_\_ the work of bomb-disposal experts that many retire before the age of 35.
4. Eating the right food is essential, but just as vital \_\_\_\_\_ getting the right amount of exercise.
5. Being a teacher is enjoyable. No less rewarding \_\_\_\_\_ working as a nursery nurse.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the elderly to be given the chance to play a more active role in society, many would be delighted.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you require more details, please feel free to contact me.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ governments addressed the issues connected with global warming sooner, we would not be facing such an enormous crisis now.
9. Under no circumstances \_\_\_\_\_ I lie.
10. Barely \_\_\_\_\_ I arrived when she started complaining.

## ANSWERS

1. Lawyers spend much more time training for their qualifications than **do** teachers.
2. Surgeons need to maintain a high level of concentration, as **do** nurses.
3. So stressful **is** the work of bomb-disposal experts that many retire before the age of 35.
4. Eating the right food is essential, but just as vital **is** getting the right amount of exercise.
5. Being a teacher is enjoyable. No less rewarding **is** working as a nursery nurse.
6. **Were** the elderly to be given the chance to play a more active role in society, many would be delighted.
7. **Should** you require more details, please feel free to contact me.
8. **Had** governments addressed the issues connected with global warming sooner, we would not be facing such an enormous crisis now.
9. Under no circumstances **would/could** I lie.
10. Barely **had** I arrived when she started complaining.

## PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences all contain inversion. Try to fill in the missing word in each sentence:

1. Only after researching the issue in detail \_\_\_\_\_ I realise how serious the problem is.
2. Only when you have passed all your exams \_\_\_\_\_ you fly a plane on your own.
3. Only on very special occasions \_\_\_\_\_ the king meet members of the public.
4. Only when cancer affects us personally \_\_\_\_\_ we begin to realise how important it is.
5. Only be taking immediate action \_\_\_\_\_ we hope to tackle the issue.
6. Only with a positive attitude \_\_\_\_\_ we succeed.
7. Not only \_\_\_\_\_ we have to make the world a fairer place, but we also have to improve living standards.
8. Not since the end of the last century \_\_\_\_\_ cinema attendances been so high.
9. Little \_\_\_\_\_ we realise how terrible climate change will be.
10. Here \_\_\_\_\_ the sun!

## ANSWERS

1. Only after researching the issue in detail **did** I realise how serious the problem is.
2. Only when you have passed all your exams **can** you fly a plane on your own.
3. Only on very special occasions **does** the king meet members of the public.
4. Only when cancer affects us personally **do** we begin to realise how important it is.
5. Only be taking immediate action **can** we hope to tackle the issue.
6. Only with a positive attitude **will/can** we succeed.
7. Not only **do** we have to make the world a fairer place, but we also have to improve living standards.
8. Not since the end of the last century **have** cinema attendances been so high.
9. Little **do** we realise how terrible climate change will be.
10. Here **comes** the sun!