

IES "NOSA SEÑORA DOS OLLOS GRANDES"  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

JCGL

## INVERSION

The term *inversion* covers different grammatical operations: questions, exclamations, conditional sentences, etc. We are going to focus on two structures:

1. Using a question form of the main verb.

***Not only did he fail to report the accident, but also later denied that he had been driving the car.***

***Never have I enjoyed myself more.***

2. Changing the normal positions of verb and subject.

***On the grass sat a little frog.***

Inversion can occur when an adverbial, usually negative, is placed at the beginning of a clause. This is done to emphasize the adverbial. Compare:

*I have never enjoyed myself more.*

***Never have I enjoyed myself more.***

***No sooner had I reached the door than I realized it was locked.***

***Only then did I understand what she meant.***

***Only after her death was I able to appreciate her.***

***Not a single word did he say.***

***Little did he realize the danger he faced.***