

IES “A NOSA SEÑORA DOS OLLOS GRANDES”
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JCGL

Swan, M. (2005) *Practical English Usage*, 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

NO SOONER ... THAN
HARDLY ... WHEN / BEFORE
SCARCELY ... WHEN / BEFORE

These three expressions can be used (often with a past perfect tense) to suggest that one thing happened very soon after another.

I had no sooner closed the door than the telephone rang.

In a formal or literary style, these structures are sometimes used with inverted word order.

Hardly was she inside the house when the kids started screaming.