

## Inversion

We use inversion in sentences which start with negative adverbs, e.g. *never, rarely, seldom, hardly, barely, scarcely, no sooner* or phrases with *no* or *not*, e.g. *under no circumstances, on no condition, on no account, at no time, in no way, not until, not only*. In these sentences an affirmative sentence takes on the order and verb form of a question: negative adverb/phrase with *no* or *not* + auxiliary verb + subject + main verb:

*He had never been so devastated.* →

**Never had he been** so devastated.

*We rarely hear about such powerful mother and child bonds in animals.* →

**Rarely do we hear** about such powerful mother and child bonds in animals.

*She had not only survived the disaster, but she had saved two other people as well.* →

**Not only had she survived** the disaster, but she had saved two other people as well.

*You are not permitted to leave the building under any circumstances.* →

**Under no circumstances are you permitted** to leave the building.

### Rewrite the sentences to add emphasis.

- 1 Tess promised to help tidy up the garden.

It was \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2 We are only handing out leaflets in protest.

All \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3 She has never been so disappointed by the results.

Never \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4 You are not going out in that raging storm under any circumstances.

Under \_\_\_\_\_.

- 5 I want to know who started the violence.

What \_\_\_\_\_.

- 6 We rarely see such high temperatures at this time of year.

Rarely \_\_\_\_\_.

- 7 They had only just got back to the flat when they heard the news.

Hardly \_\_\_\_\_.

- 8 I don't believe in telling lies.

What \_\_\_\_\_.