

He could seldom bring up the topic of recycling at our weekly meetings.

→ **Seldom** could he bring up the topic of recycling at our weekly meetings.

Seldom and rarely can be modified by very.

→ **Very rarely** do we attend the meetings.

→ **Very seldom** could he bring up the topic of recycling at our weekly meetings.

Adverbial phrases containing not

not until, not for a/one moment, not since, not a word:

I didn't realise how much damage it had caused in our area until the flooding subsided.

→ **Not until** the flooding subsided did I realise how much damage it had caused in our area.

We didn't think, not even for a moment, of giving up hope after the deadly earthquake.

→ **Not for a moment** did we think of giving up hope after the deadly earthquake.

There hasn't been such a disaster in this area since I was a little child.

→ **Not since** I was a little child has there been such a disaster in this area.

Adverbial phrases containing no

at no time, in no way, under/in no circumstances, on no account/condition/occasion, etc.:

No one else must be told.

→ **On no account** must anyone else be told.

You aren't allowed to come close to the disaster area for any reason.

→ **Under no circumstances** are you allowed to come close to the disaster area.

We weren't made aware at any time that an earthquake could strike soon.

→ **At no time** were we made aware that an earthquake could strike soon.

Adverbial phrases with only

not only ... but ..., only when, only after, only later, only once, only then, only in this way, only by + -ing, only by chance:

We were late and we had forgotten our tickets!

→ **Not only** were we late, **but** we had also forgotten our tickets!

Note:

When **not only** qualifies a noun subject, we do not invert the subject and the verb:

Not only the sun, but also water and wind can produce power.

Inversion usually occurs directly after the time phrase. If the time phrase is a clause containing a verb, then the inversion occurs in the second part of the sentence:

Only then did they contribute to the Save the Wolves fund.

Only after they had watched the documentary, **did** they contribute to the Save the Wolves fund.

Hardly/barely/scarcely + when

These adverbs are frequently used for dramatic effect in past narratives. In this case, we usually use the Past Perfect:

As soon as the storm ended, the flood waters subsided.

→ **Hardly/Barely/Scarcely** had the storm ended **when** the flood waters subsided.

No sooner + than

It is also used with Past Perfect for dramatic effect:

As soon as the storm ended, the flood waters subsided.

→ **No sooner** had the storm ended **than** the flood waters subsided.

1 Rewrite the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Begin with the words given.

1 We could never have imagined that so many people would support building flood barriers.

Little ?

2 There was no other way we could guard against flooding.

Only ?

3 The downpour started outside as soon as the decision to build was reached.

No sooner ?

4 We reached home just before the water started to rise.

Scarcely ?

5 It wasn't until we looked out of the windows that we realised how high the water was.

Only when ?

6 It had not only flooded the road outside, but was starting to come into the garden.

Not ?

7 We were definitely not able to stay in the house.

Under ?

8 Just as we made the decision to leave, the police arrived in a boat.

Hardly ?

9 It's not often that I've felt so worried!

Seldom ?

10 But we were lucky when we returned. The house hadn't been flooded, nor had the garage.

But we were lucky when we returned. Neither ?