

INVERSION in English

at the FCE LEVEL

LITTLE DID somebody know/realize/think, etc.

Used to say that someone did not know or think that something would happen or was true

- Little did I know that the course of my life was about to change.
- But little did he know at the time, how soon he'd need it.
- Little did I realize I would one day be in charge of the office.
- Little did I think that he would be so famous.

NOT ONLY DO/will/can/did/ , etc., ...but also.../ but ...as well/too

in addition to being or doing something.

To add emphasis, we can use not only at the beginning of a clause. When we do this, **we invert the subject and the verb**:

- Not only was it raining all day at the wedding but also the band was late.
- Not only will they paint the outside of the house but also the inside.

When there is no auxiliary verb or main verb be, we use do, does, did:

- Not only did she forget my birthday, but she also didn't even apologise for forgetting it.
- Not only do the nurses want a pay increase, (but) they want reduced hours as well.

Not with NEITHER and NOR.

When a clause with neither or nor is used after a negative clause, **we invert the subject and the verb after neither and nor**:

- He hadn't done any homework, neither had he brought any of his books to class.
- We didn't get to see the castle, nor did we see the cathedral.
- I don't usually wake up at 6 a.m., nor do I like to wake up at 5 a.m.
- John didn't say he liked tomatoes, and neither did he buy any