



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