

# INVERSION

in English

## at B2 LEVEL

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### LITTLE DID somebody know/think/realize, etc.

Used in a negative sense in inversions to stress that someone did not know, think, realize, etc. 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, but ... 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 NOT

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.