

not only ... but also...

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The structure “NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO...” is used in formal contexts to present two related pieces of information. Both pieces of information are presented as surprising or unexpected. The second one is considered even more surprising than the first.

When using “NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO...” we need to make sure that the words following both parts of this correlative conjunction (i.e., not only and but also) belong to the same parts of speech. For example, if a verb follows not only, then a verb should also follow but also.

That is what we call parallelism.

S + V	not only	ADJ	BUT ALSO	ADJ
She is	not only	beautiful	but also	Intelligent.
He is	not only	rich	but also	famous.

S + V	not only	ADV	BUT ALSO	ADV
She speaks English	not only	fluently	but also	naturally.
Jack works	not only	quickly	but also	efficiently.

S + V	not only	NOUN	BUT ALSO	NOUN
He speaks	not only	English	but also	Spanish.
He ate	not only	pizza	but also	burgers.

Subject	not only	VERB	BUT ALSO	VERB
He	not only	ate the pizza	but also	drank the coke.
This car	not only	is economical	but also	feels good to drive.

INVERSION 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.

Verb be :

- Not only **was it** raining all day at the wedding but also the band was late.
- Not only **is he** handsome but (he is) also intelligent.

Auxiliary Verbs (do/will/would/could/can...) :

- 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 **does he speak** English but (he) also (speaks) Spanish.

NOTE: A double negative is considered an error – a negative form after NOT ONLY sounds very unnatural.

- Not only **did she not** have any experience but **she also did not** have relevant education

It's better to rephrase:

- Not only **was she lacking in experience** but also in relevant education