**Negative inversion - practice exercises**

**Exercise 1 - Fill the gaps using the words in the list below.**

has before than audience then was started will can did so many had

1. Hardly ever ------- an athlete won so many medals in such a short time.

2. Little ------- we realise what a social faux-pas we had committed.

3. Scarcely ------- the match started when the trouble began.

4. Only by standing on tip-toe ------- I able to see anything at all.

5. Seldom can an ------- have heard a better interpretation of this symphony.

6. Hardly had the controversial opera ------- when people began to walk out.

7. Only if we leave now ------- we be in time to catch the train.

8. Never have I seen ------- people turn out for this event.

9. Rarely ------- a remark have been more ill-judged.

10. Only ------- did it become clear what the extent of the damage was.

11. Barely had we had time to pack up the picnic things ------- the heavens opened.

12. No sooner had we asked for a quieter room room, ------- we were given one.

**Exercise 2 - Fill the gaps using the words in the following list.**

else way did circumstances nothing such nor until would account only even

1. At no time ------- he seem to realise what an idiot he was making of himself.

2. At no time before have I heard ------- arrant nonsense.

3. Nowhere ------- do they charge you so much for water

4. On no ------- should you miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

5. Under no ------- must this door be left unlocked.

6. Not ------- she apologises for what she said will I speak to her again.

7. Not ------- if they halved the price would I buy such a heap of old rubbish.

8. Not for all the money in the world ------- I do what you're suggesting.

9. Not ------- do I know you're wrong, but I can also prove you're wrong.

10. Neither was the food up to standard ------- was the service particularly good.

11. Everyone except me got soaked. Not for ------- do I always carry an umbrella.

12. No ------- am I going to jump into that icy cold water!

***Remember that when there is more than one auxiliary verb, only the first one is inverted.***

**Exercise 3 - Make inverted sentences from the sentences given, using the words in brackets.**

1. You shouldn't tell him about my trip to China. (On no .....................................................

2. You are not going to get me to eat that! (No way ................................................................ !

3. I have seldom seen such a brilliant goal. (Seldom ......................................................................

4. Such a hurricane has rarely happened in Hereford. (Hardly ever ...............................................

5. I wouldn't want to hurt your feelings for all the world. (Not ......................................................

6. They were never aware of the danger that threatened them. (At no time ...................................

7. This must not leak out to the press. (Under ..............................................................................

8. He wasn't rich and he wasn't handsome. (Neither ....................................................................

9. We haven't often witnessed such artistry. (Rarely ..................................................................

10. The bridge collapsed as soon as we managed to get across. (No sooner .............................

11. We were only able to cross the border by offering him a bribe. (Only ................................

12. Immediately he opened his mouth he started complaining about everything. (Barely ... ……………before ......................................................................................13. She has no idea what a surprise she's going to get. (Little ...........................know………………………………………………

14.. The bell had barely started to ring when the children rushed out of the classroom. (Scarcely………………………………………………………….

15.. He didn't start his speech until there was absolute silence in the hall (Not ...................................................................

16.. We will only be able to accept your offer if we are offered free delivery (Only ....................................................................................................

17. It is with good reason that Edinburgh is known as the Athens of the North (Not for ..............................................................................................

18. We have never been so well wined and dined in our lives (Never ............................................

19. She didn't break the news of her engagement until after dinner (Only…………………………

20. We weren't told that we would need our passports. (At no time…………………… ...........................................................................................