

New Zealand — bungee

'No way am I going to do this!' I thought as I stood looking down at the Kawarau River, 43 metres below. But there was no turning back now. No sooner had my instructor attached the elastic rope to me than I was falling headfirst and screaming so loud the whole of New Zealand must have heard me! Never have I been so scared in my whole life! But it's over before you know it and you're back on dry land. Only then do you find yourself saying, 'That was amazing! I want to go again!'



Presentation

Negative inversion and limiting adverbials

You can put negative and limiting adverbs or adverbials at the beginning of a sentence to add emphasis:

Never have I been so scared in all my life.

Only then do you find yourself saying, 'That was amazing!'

This is more common in formal written English, but you will also hear the structure in spoken English, for example:

No way am I going to do that!

Negative adverbials are expressions with the word *no*, *not* or *never*. They include *never before*, *at no time*, *no sooner ... than*, *no way*, *not since* and *not until*.

Limiting (or restrictive) adverbials include *hardly ... when*, *rarely*, *seldom* and expressions with *only* such as *only when*, *only after* and *not only*.

Seldom have I been so scared!

no sooner ... than / hardly ... when

These adverbials are followed by *than* and *when*:

No sooner had he attached the elastic rope to me than I was falling ...

Hardly had I reached the top when I was falling to the bottom ...

Inversion

After the adverbial, you must change the order of the subject and verb (this is called inversion).

With sentences with auxiliary verbs, use adverbial + auxiliary verb + subject:

I've never been so scared in all my life. → Never have I been so scared in all my life.

We haven't been bungee-jumping since we were in New Zealand. → Not since we were in New Zealand have we been bungee-jumping.

(don't say ~~Never I have~~ been so scared ... or ~~Not since~~ we were in New Zealand, ~~we have~~ been bungee-jumping.)

TIP Remember that an adverbial starting with *Not since ...* needs information about the time: *Not since we were in New Zealand ...*

For sentences with the verb *to be*, you only invert the subject and the verb with no other changes:

Never was I so happy to stand on solid ground.

With verbs in the simple form, use adverbial + *do/does/did* + subject + main verb:

She rarely gets scared. → Rarely does she get scared.

1 Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

never no (x2) not (x2) only rarely when

- 1 Only the exam had finally ended could I relax.
- 2 do they reply to our letters any more. We hear from them about once a year.
- 3 since the 19th century has anyone lived in that castle. The last family left in 1891.
- 4 way are you going to convince me to climb that mountain!
- 5 Not did he pass the test, but he also got the highest mark in his class.
- 6 will I do that again. It was a terrifying experience.
- 7 sooner had the fire started than the fire brigade arrived.
- 8 once did they offer to clean up or cook during the six months they were here!

2 Complete the sentences with the words in the correct order.

- 1 was / I / going to / way
No way was I going to let him win.
- 2 anything / had / they / seen
Never quite as beautiful.
- 3 had / they split up / sooner / than
No they were back together again.
- 4 we / set off / had
Hardly when someone in the group needed a rest.
- 5 win / did / only / she
Not , but she also broke a world record.
- 6 did / after years of hard work / Rachel / qualify
Only as a doctor.

3 Rewrite the first sentence starting with the adverb or adverbial.

- 1 I have rarely tasted anything so disgusting!
Rarely
- 2 We had hardly started class when the fire alarm rang.
Hardly
- 3 It seldom rains at this time of year.
Seldom
- 4 My parents never want to go on a cruise again.
Never
- 5 You don't often see Michaela work that hard.
Not often
- 6 There's no way we're going to work for less money!
No way
- 7 There hasn't been an Olympic Gold medallist from our country since 1988.
Not since 1988

4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.

- 1 Not once have I ever wanted to
- 2 Never have I been so scared as the time when I
- 3 Seldom do I any more.
- 4 No way am I going to