

CHAPTER

Inversion is the reversal of the normal word order in a sentence or a phrase. These are two types of inversion.

- 1. Subject-verb inversion** - Where the subject and the main verb switch positions and the word order becomes **verb + subject**.

E.g.: Here comes the rain.
Verb Subject

- 2. Subject-auxiliary verb inversion**:- Where the subject and the auxiliary verb switch positions and the word order becomes **'auxiliary verb + subject + verb'**.

E.g.: Never did I
Auxiliary verb Sub

go there.
Main verb

Inversion is used in the following types of sentences-

- 1. Interrogative sentences:-**

E.g.: 1. Do I know him?
A.V Main Verb

2. Isn't he working hard?
A.V Main Verb

If the sentence is of **imaginary position**, it is of the following structure-

Ex- If I were a bird, I
If+ Sub Main Verb Sub

would fly.
would V₁

But if we remove 'if' from such imaginary sentences, 'were' which is the main verb here, comes before the subject and then the structure of the sentence is-

Ex- Were I a bird, I would
Main Verb +Sub Sub H.V

fly.
V₁

- 3. Conditional Sentences:-** Conditional sentences of past is generally of the following formation.

E.g.: If I had seen you,
If+ Sub H.V V₃ obj

I would have stopped
Sub+ H.V have V₃

my car.
object

But if we remove 'if' from such Imaginary Sentences, 'had' which is an auxiliary verb here comes before the subject and then the structure of the sentence is-

E.g.: - Had I seen + you I
H.V Sub V₃ obj Sub

would have stopped my car.
H.V have V₃ object

In such sentences 'should' or 'were' can come in place of 'had'.

E.g.: 1. Should you need my help, do call me.

2. Were I you, I would never go there.

4. **Short Answers**-Short answers start with 'So' if the answer is positive and 'Neither' if the answer is negative. If a sentence starts with 'So', 'Neither' or 'Nor', the auxiliary verb comes before the subject.

E.g.: 1. I don't like playing football.

Short Answer-Neither do I.

2. I am tired.

Short Answer- So am I.

In the same way certain other examples are there though they do not fall in the category of short answers.

E.g.: Wheat is not native to India and neither is Barley. (✓)

Wheat is not native to India and Barley isn't either. (✓)

Note: How inversion i.e. 'is' before 'Barley' comes if the sentence starts with neither but a normal sentence i.e.

Barley + isn't comes if the
Sub verb sentence starts with a 'subject'.

5. **Optative Sentences** - In Sentences of 'wish' and 'prayers', the 'verb' goes before the 'subject'.

E.g.: 1. May God bless you.
H.V. Sub V_i Obj

2. Long live the king.
Adv H.V. Sub

6. **Introductory Comparative** :- If a sentence starts with a comparative degree, the latter part will be in inversion.

E.g.: 1. More important than our personal

view is the students' opinion.
verb sub

2. No less beneficial than the

invention of the telephone was
Verb

the telegraph machine.
sub

Note: We can use the form of Inversion here only when the verb is a 'be-verb'.

7. **Introductory 'V₃/ing' verb** :- Inversion follows when the sentence starts with 'V₃/ing' form of a verb.

E.g.: 1. Lost among the old clothes was my new favourite shirt which I had been looking for a long time.

2. Located between San Francisco and Marin County is the Golden Gate Bridge.

3. Burning out of control was a dense forest of Australia.

8. **Negative Introductory**:- Inversion follows when a sentence starts with 'no', 'not' or 'never' or when such a word is used at the starting of a sentence that is negative in meaning such as rarely, hardly, seldom, barely, little or scarcely.

Eg. 1. Nowhere else in the world do
H.V.

we find such diversity in culture.
sub Main Verb

2. Never in the history of India, did
H.V.

we see such a shrewd mentor
sub Main Verb
like Chanakya.

3. Not a word did
H.V.

our Prime Minister speak when
sub Main Verb

the opposition heaped him with accusations.

4. Hardly had I reached the
H.V. sub Main Verb

main road when the rain started.

9. **Adverbial Introductory** :- Inversion follows when a sentence starts with an Adverb.

E.g.: 1. On a hill lived
Main Verb

an old saint.
sub

2. Under a tree was seated
H.V. Main Verb

a cunning fox
sub

3. Only when the virus introduces its
nucleic acid into a cell does a
H.V.

disease occurs
sub Main Verb

4. Along the border, was deployed
H.V. Main Verb
the Indian army
Obj

10. Inversion follows if in a sentence the following Correlative Conjunctions are used.

So..... that

Not only..... but also

No sooner..... than

Hardly..... when

Scarcely..... when

In such sentences Inversion follows only when the sentence starts with the first part of the correlative conjunctions given above.

Eg.: 1. So tired was I that I was
M.V. sub
unable to walk.

2. Not only does he know me
H.V. sub. M.V.
but also my parents.

3. Scarcely had I boarded the
H.V. M.V.
train when it departed.

11. Inversion follows if a sentence starts with 'here', 'there', 'away', 'out', 'in', 'down', or 'up' followed by a noun.

E.g.: 1. Up goes the water vapour
Main Verb Noun

and down comes the rain.
Main Verb Noun

2. Here comes our chief guest.
Main Verb Noun

3. There goes the plane.
Main Verb Noun

But if a sentence starts with the words given above but followed by a pronoun, a normal sentence will follow.

Eg.: 1. Here he comes.
Pronoun Verb

2. There it is.
Pronoun verb

12. See some common phrases given below. These phrases will be followed by Inversion.

- Under no circumstance
- In no way
- On no account (means - under no circumstance)
- On no condition (means - absolutely not.)
- At no time.
- Only yesterday/only last week/only day before yesterday etc.
- Round the corner (means- soon to take place)
- Five miles beyond the..... /ten metres above the sea level etc.
- To such an extent.
- To such a degree
- So well/so absurdly (So + adverb of manner)

E.g.: 1. Round the corner is
M.V.
your examination.

2. So well was the work
H.V. obj

done that I could not point out
M.V.
even a single mistake.

3. Ten miles beyond the hill was
H.V.

seen a ferocious tiger
M.V. obj

4. Only yesterday did I meet
H.V. verb Main Verb
him.

5. To such an extent was
H.V.

the car damaged that it
obj Main Verb
couldn't be repaired.

**CORRECT THE UNDERLINED
PART IF NEEDED**

- Not a word he spoke when he heard the news of his son's demise.
- Round the corner your exam is.
- Never in the history of India we find such a feeling of nationalism.
- Under a tree a cunning fox was seated.
- Here the rain comes.
- There our chief guest comes.
- There lived a saint and on a hill his tiny hut was.
- Twenty miles beyond the terrain, a bridge was built.
- Little we know about his miserable condition.
- To such an extent the condition has aggravated that no one can solve it.
- Only the day before yesterday we saw him.
- She will not do anything and neither her brother will.
- Hardly I saw him intently when he ran away.
- Not only he knows me but also my parents.
- Under no circumstance we can allow such blatant act of corruption.
- Seldom we go to our native village.
- If I came to know the truth, I would have helped him with all that he needed.
- I haven't been to any European country and neither my parents have.
- Never I go to his place and I find him very egoist and self-praising.
- No sooner the government enacted the Hindu Marriage Act than the condition of Hindu women started getting better.
- Along the border several sounds of firing was heard.
- Down the stream went rumbling.
- Seldom I have seen such a beautiful monument.
- Hardly he knows anything about the

- political situation of his native state.
- Under no circumstance I can accept your proposal.
 - On no condition, I will sell my land.
 - Only by taking some amount of money on loan, I can buy this bungalow.
 - Here the train comes.
 - So well he organized the party that everyone was left spell-bound.
 - So rudely he spoke that I felt extremely offended.

Answer-key

Change:

- 'He spoke' into 'did he speak'.
- 'Your exam is' into 'is your exam'.
- 'We find' into 'do we find'.
- 'A cunning fox was seated' into 'was seated a cunning fox'.
- 'The rain comes' into 'comes the rain'.
- 'Our chief guest comes' into 'comes our chief guest'.
- 'His tiny hut was' into 'was his tiny hut'.
- 'A bridge was built' into 'was a bridge built'.
- 'We know' into 'do we know'.
- 'The condition has aggravated' into 'has the condition aggravated'.
- 'We saw him' into 'did we see him'.
- 'Her brother will' into 'will her brother'.
- 'I saw' into 'did I see' or 'had I seen him'.
- 'He knows' into 'does he know'.
- 'We can' into 'can we'.
- 'We go' into 'do we go'.
- 'If I came' into 'If I had come' or 'Had I come'.
- 'My parents have' into 'have my parents'.
- 'I go' into 'do I go'.
- 'The government enacted' into 'did the government enact'.
- Change 'several sounds of firing was heard' into 'was heard several sounds of firing'.
- 'Down the stream went' into 'Down went the stream'.
- 'I have seen' into 'have I seen'.
- 'He knows' into 'does he know'.
- 'I can' into 'can I'.
- 'I will' into 'will I'.
- 'I can buy' into 'can I buy'.
- 'The train comes' into 'comes the train'.
- 'He organized' into 'did he organize'.
- 'He spoke' into 'did he speak'.