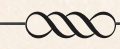


# INVERSION



WITH NEGATIVE ADVERBIALS



# WHAT IS INVERSION?

- ◆ Inversion means changing the normal word order of a sentence—usually by placing the verb before the subject.



# WHAT IS INVERSION?

- ◆ In English, the normal sentence order is:  
**Subject + Verb + Object**

*e.g. I had never seen such a beautiful place.*

But sometimes, we can flip this order:

*e.g. Never had I seen such a beautiful place.*

That's called **inversion**.



# NEGATIVE ADVERBIAL INVERSION

- ❖ To emphasize the negative idea we use **negative adverbial inversion**

Placing the negative adverbial at the beginning makes it stronger and more noticeable.

Compare:

*e.g. I had never heard such nonsense.*

*e.g. Never had I heard such nonsense.*

The inverted version sounds more dramatic and emphatic.

The focus is on 'never' not on 'I'.



# NEGATIVE ADVERBIALS

Some common negative adverbials include:

- ❖ Never
- ❖ Rarely
- ❖ Seldom
- ❖ Hardly
- ❖ Scarcely
- ❖ Barely
- ❖ No sooner
- ❖ Not only
- ❖ At no time
- ❖ Under no circumstances
- ❖ Little (meaning “not at all”)

These expressions trigger inversion when they come first in the sentence.



# SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- ◆ The basic structure for the inversion is:

**Negative adverbial + auxiliary + subject + main verb**

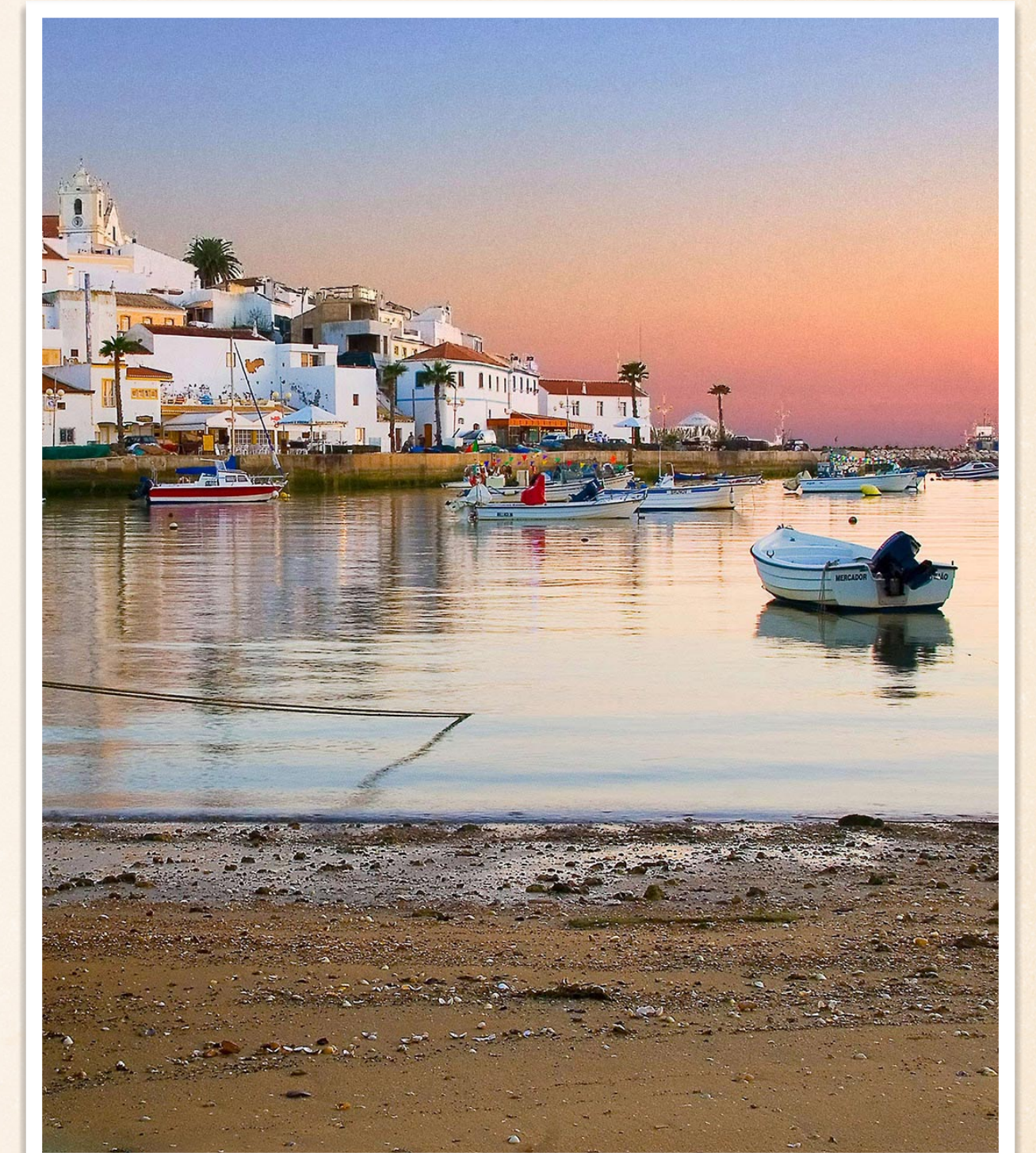
*e.g. Rarely have we seen such dedication.*

*e.g. Under no circumstances should you open this door.*

- ◆ If there is no auxiliary verb, we use *do / does / did*:

*e.g. She understood the problem.*

*e.g. Little did she understand the problem.*



# HARDLY ...WHEN NO SOONER...THAN

- ❖ Some expressions are commonly used with the past perfect, especially in storytelling:

*e.g. Hardly had he arrived when the meeting began.*

*e.g. No sooner had they left than it started to rain.*

These forms emphasize that one action happened immediately after another.



# SUMMING UP

- ◆ Negative adverbial inversion is used to:
  - Add emphasis
  - Create a dramatic effect in speaking or writing
  - Sound more formal or academic



# SUMMING UP

- ❖ Remember to:
  - Start with a negative adverbial
  - Invert the auxiliary verb and subject
- ❖ Practice it, notice it in real texts, and you'll start using it naturally.

