

#### 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 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.

## Exercises

### 1 Complete sentences 1–8 using the words in the box.

never	no (x2)	not (x2)	only	rarely	when
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|---|---|
| 1 Only ..... the exam had finally ended could I relax.  | 5 Not ..... did he pass the test, but he also got the highest mark in his class.            |
| 2 ..... do they reply to our letters any more. We hear from them about once a year.                       | 6 ..... will I do that again. It was a terrifying experience.                               |
| 3 ..... since the 19 <sup>th</sup> century has anyone lived in that castle. The last family left in 1891. | 7 ..... sooner had the fire started than the fire brigade arrived.                          |
| 4 ..... way are you going to convince me to climb that mountain!  | 8 ..... once did they offer to clean up or cook during the whole six months they were here! |

### 2 Complete sentences 1–6 with the words in the correct order.

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

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

- I have rarely tasted anything so disgusting!  
Rarely .....
- We had hardly started class when the fire alarm rang.  
Hardly .....
- It seldom rains at this time of year.  
Seldom .....
- My parents never want to go on a cruise again.  
Never .....
- You don't often see Michaela work that hard.  
Not often .....
- There's no way we're going to work for less money!  
No way .....
- 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.

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