

G16 Inversion

The normal word order in an English sentence is subject – verb – object. However, in certain cases the word order can be changed. This has a special stylistic effect. Inversions are mainly used in written texts (for dramatic effect).

1. Verwendung

- If a sentence begins with **hardly (... when), scarcely (... when), not only(... but also), no sooner(... than), never, rarely, neither ... nor, the subject** comes **after the auxiliary** – as in questions.
- If there is no auxiliary in the sentence, a form of do is used.
- This construction is called **inversion**.

2. Beispiele

- **Hardly had the battle in the north ended, when** Harold heard of William of Normandy's landing.
- **Not only did the Normans conquer England, but** the French they spoke **also** changed the English language forever.
- **No sooner had William become king than** plans were begun for building castles all over the country.
- **Never again was England invaded** by a foreign power.