



## Inversion: Negative Adverbial Inversion

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. Never \_\_\_ such a beautiful sunset.  
a) I have seen  
b) have I seen  
c) I had seen  
d) did I see
2. Seldom \_\_\_ so quickly.  
a) does the train arrive  
b) the train arrives  
c) the train does arrive  
d) arrives the train
3. Hardly \_\_\_ the door when the phone rang.  
a) she opened  
b) she had opened  
c) had she opened  
d) did she open
4. At no time \_\_\_ aware of the danger.  
a) they were  
b) they are  
c) they had been  
d) were they
5. Rarely \_\_\_ such talent in a young musician.  
a) we see  
b) do we see  
c) we do see  
d) seeing we
6. Not once \_\_\_ to help with the project.  
a) did he offer  
b) he offered  
c) he did offer  
d) he offers
7. Little \_\_\_ that the project would fail.  
a) she knew  
b) she did know  
c) did she know  
d) she knows
8. Under no circumstances \_\_\_ this building during the drill.  
a) you should leave  
b) you leave  
c) leaving you  
d) should you leave
9. Barely \_\_\_ when the lights went out.  
a) had the show started  
b) the show started  
c) the show had started  
d) started the show
10. In no way \_\_\_ responsible for the accident.  
a) he is  
b) was he  
c) he was  
d) he had been
11. Never before \_\_\_ so many complaints about a single product.  
a) we received  
b) we had received  
c) had we received  
d) we have received

12. On no account \_\_\_\_ this door during the examination.  
a) you must open  
b) you open  
c) you can open  
d) must you open
13. Not for a moment \_\_\_\_ that he was lying.  
a) did I suspect  
b) I suspected  
c) I did suspect  
d) I suspect
14. Nowhere else \_\_\_\_ such authentic Italian food.  
a) you find  
b) will you find  
c) you will find  
d) finding you
15. Scarcely \_\_\_\_ the news when she burst into tears.  
a) he heard  
b) he had heard  
c) had he heard  
d) did he hear
16. Here \_\_\_\_ the bus at last!  
a) come  
b) coming  
c) is coming  
d) comes
17. The manager never \_\_\_\_ the office before 6 p.m.  
a) leaves  
b) does leave  
c) leave  
d) leaving
18. There \_\_\_\_ the children, running across the field.  
a) goes  
b) go  
c) are going  
d) going
19. She rarely \_\_\_\_ mistakes in her work.  
a) make  
b) making  
c) makes  
d) is make
20. Down \_\_\_\_ the heavy rain, flooding the streets.  
a) comes  
b) coming  
c) come  
d) came



## Answers

1. b) have I seen
2. a) does the train arrive
3. c) had she opened
4. d) were they
5. b) do we see
6. a) did he offer
7. c) did she know
8. d) should you leave
9. a) had the show started
10. b) was he
11. c) had we received
12. d) must you open
13. a) did I suspect
14. b) will you find
15. c) had he heard
16. d) comes
17. a) leaves
18. b) go
19. c) makes
20. d) came



# Explanations

## 1. “have I seen” (b)

When 'Never' begins the sentence, the auxiliary must come before the subject: 'Never have I seen...' The present perfect is used because the experience is connected to the present.

## 2. “does the train arrive” (a)

With 'Seldom' at the front, invert auxiliary + subject: 'Seldom does the train arrive...' Use 'does' for present simple inversion with third-person subjects.

## 3. “had she opened” (c)

'Hardly...when' uses past perfect inversion: 'Hardly had she opened the door when the phone rang.' The earlier action takes the past perfect; the later action uses past simple.

## 4. “were they” (d)

'At no time' is a negative prepositional phrase. When fronted, it triggers inversion: 'At no time were they aware...' The auxiliary 'were' moves before the subject.

## 5. “do we see” (b)

'Rarely' at the sentence front triggers inversion: 'Rarely do we see...' Use 'do' for present simple inversion.

## 6. “did he offer” (a)

'Not once' at the front requires inversion: 'Not once did he offer...' Use 'did' + base form for past simple inversion.

## 7. “did she know” (c)

'Little' with a negative meaning ('she didn't know much') at the front triggers inversion: 'Little did she know...' This is a very common fixed expression.

## 8. “should you leave” (d)

'Under no circumstances' is a strong negative expression. When fronted, the modal moves before the subject: 'Under no circumstances should you leave...'

## 9. “had the show started” (a)

'Barely...when' follows the same pattern as 'Hardly...when': past perfect inversion in the first clause, past simple in the second. 'Barely had the show started when...'

## 10. “was he” (b)

'In no way' at the front triggers inversion: 'In no way was he responsible...' The auxiliary 'was' moves before the subject 'he'.

## 11. “had we received” (c)

'Never before' at the front requires inversion with the past perfect: 'Never before had we received...' The past perfect indicates the experience up to that point.

## 12. “must you open” (d)

'On no account' is a strong prohibition. The modal 'must' moves before the subject: 'On no account must you open this door...'

## 13. “did I suspect” (a)

'Not for a moment' at the front triggers inversion: 'Not for a moment did I suspect...' Use 'did' + base form for past simple inversion.

**14. “will you find” (b)**

'Nowhere else' at the front triggers inversion: 'Nowhere else will you find...' The modal 'will' moves before the subject.

**15. “had he heard” (c)**

'Scarcely...when' works like 'Hardly...when': past perfect inversion + past simple. 'Scarcely had he heard the news when she burst into tears.'

**16. “comes” (d)**

With 'Here/There' + a full noun subject, use simple subject-verb inversion (no auxiliary needed): 'Here comes the bus!' This is locative inversion, not negative adverbial inversion.

**17. “leaves” (a)**

When the negative adverb 'never' is NOT at the beginning of the sentence, no inversion is needed. Normal word order applies: 'The manager never leaves...'

**18. “go” (b)**

With 'There' + a plural noun subject, use a bare verb matching the plural: 'There go the children.' This is locative inversion — the subject follows the verb, but no auxiliary is added.

**19. “makes” (c)**

When the subject 'She' comes before 'rarely', no inversion is needed. Normal subject-verb order applies: 'She rarely makes mistakes.' Compare: 'Rarely does she make mistakes.'

**20. “came” (d)**

With directional adverbs (Down, Up, Away) + a full noun subject, use subject-verb inversion without an auxiliary: 'Down came the heavy rain.' This is directional inversion, not negative adverbial inversion.