

#### 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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| <p>1 Only ..... the exam had finally ended could I relax.</p> <p>2 ..... do they reply to our letters any more. We hear from them about once a year.</p> <p>3 ..... since the 19<sup>th</sup> century has anyone lived in that castle. The last family left in 1891.</p> <p>4 ..... way are you going to convince me to climb that mountain!</p> | <p>5 Not ..... did he pass the test, but he also got the highest mark in his class.</p> <p>6 ..... will I do that again. It was a terrifying experience.</p> <p>7 ..... sooner had the fire started than the fire brigade arrived.</p> <p>8 ..... once did they offer to clean up or cook during the whole six months they were here!</p> |
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**2 Complete sentences 1–6 with the words in the correct order.**

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

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| <p>1 I have rarely tasted anything so disgusting!<br/>Rarely .....</p> <p>2 We had hardly started class when the fire alarm rang.<br/>Hardly .....</p> <p>3 It seldom rains at this time of year.<br/>Seldom .....</p> <p>4 My parents never want to go on a cruise again.<br/>Never .....</p> <p>5 You don't often see Michaela work that hard.<br/>Not often .....</p> <p>6 There's no way we're going to work for less money!<br/>No way .....</p> <p>7 There hasn't been an Olympic Gold medallist from our country since 1988.<br/>Not since 1988 .....</p> |
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**4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.**

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| <p>1 Not once have I ever wanted to .....</p> <p>2 Never have I been so scared as the time when I .....</p> <p>3 Seldom do I ..... any more.</p> <p>4 No way am I going to .....</p> |
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