

7. Because the project depends on _____ at the federal level, the city and county may have to wait until the budget cutting ends.
- (A) it happens
(B) which happening
(C) what happens
(D) that it happens
8. _____ definitive study of a western hard-rock mining community cemetery appears to have been done is in Silver City, Nevada.
- (A) Most
(B) The most
(C) Where most
(D) Where the most
9. One of the areas of multimedia that is growing quickly _____ is sound.
- (A) yet is easily overlooked
(B) is easily overlooked
(C) it is easily overlooked
(D) that is easily overlooked
10. _____, early approaches for coping with workplace stress dealt with the problem only after its symptoms had appeared.
- (A) Although well-intending
(B) Although it is a good intention
(C) Although a good intention
(D) Although well-intended

SENTENCES WITH INVERTED SUBJECTS AND VERBS _____

Subjects and verbs are inverted in a variety of situations in English. Inverted subjects and verbs occur most often in the formation of a question. To form a question with a helping verb (*be, have, can, could, will, would, etc.*), the subject and helping verb are inverted.

He can go to the movies.

Can he go to the movies?

You would tell me the truth.

Would you tell me the truth?

She was sick yesterday.

Was she sick yesterday?

To form a question when there is no helping verb in the sentence, the helping verb *do* is used.

He goes to the movies.

Does he go to the movies?

You told me the truth.

Did you tell me the truth?

There are many other situations in English when subjects and verbs are inverted, but if you just remember this method of inverting subjects and verbs, you will be able to handle the other situations. The most common problems with inverted subjects and verbs on the TOEFL test occur in the following situations: (1) with question words such as *what, when, where, why, and how*; (2) after some place expressions; (3) after negative expressions; (4) in some conditionals; and (5) after some comparisons.

SKILL 15: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERB WITH QUESTION WORDS

There is some confusion about when to invert the subject and verb after question words such as *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how*. These words can have two very different functions in a sentence. First, they can introduce a question, and in this case the subject and verb that follow are inverted.

What is the homework?

When can I leave?

Where are you going?

Also, these words can join together two clauses, and in this case the subject and verb that follow are not inverted.

I do not know *what* the homework is.

When I can leave, I will take the first train.

Do you know *where* you are going?

In each of these examples there are two clauses joined by a question word. Notice that the subjects and verbs that follow the question words *what*, *when*, and *where* are not inverted in this case.

The following example shows how this sentence pattern could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



The lawyer asked the client why _____ it.

- (A) did he do
- (B) did he
- (C) he did
- (D) did

In this example the question word *why* is used to connect the two clauses, so a subject and verb are needed after this connector; this is not a question, so the subject and verb should not be inverted. The best answer is therefore answer (C).

The following chart lists the question words and their sentence patterns:

INVERTED SUBJECTS AND VERBS WITH QUESTION WORDS					
<i>who</i>	<i>what</i>	<i>when</i>	<i>where</i>	<i>why</i>	<i>how</i>
When the question word introduces a question, the subject and verb <i>are</i> inverted.					
		(question word)		V S ?	
		What		are they?	
When the question word connects two clauses, the subject and verb that follow <i>are not</i> inverted.					
	S V		(question word)		S V.
	I know		what		they are.

EXERCISE 15: Each of the following sentences contains a question word. Circle the question words. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. The phone company is not certain (when) will the new directories be ready.
- C 2. The professor does not understand (why) so many students did poorly on the exam.
- ___ 3. How new students can get information about parking?
- ___ 4. Where is it cheapest to get typeset copies printed?
- ___ 5. Only the pilot can tell you how far can the plane go on one tank of fuel.
- ___ 6. What type of security does he prefer for his investments?
- ___ 7. Not even the bank president knows when the vault will be opened.
- ___ 8. How long it has been since you arrived in the United States?
- ___ 9. The jury doubts what the witness said under cross-examination.
- ___ 10. Do you know why he wants to take an extended leave of absence?

SKILL 16: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERB WITH PLACE EXPRESSIONS

After ideas expressing place, the subject and the verb sometimes invert in English. This can happen with single words expressing place, such as *here*, *there*, or *nowhere*.

Here is the book that you lent me.

There are the keys that I thought I lost.

Nowhere have I seen such beautiful weather.

In the first example the place word *here* causes the subject *book* to come after the verb *is*. In the second example the place word *there* causes the subject *keys* to come after the verb *are*. In the last example the place word *nowhere* causes the subject *I* to come after the verb *have*.

The subject and verb can also be inverted after prepositional phrases expressing place.

In the closet are the clothes that you want.

Around the corner is Sam's house.

Beyond the mountains lies the town where you will live.

In the first example the prepositional phrase of place *in the closet* causes the subject *clothes* to come after the verb *are*. In the second example the prepositional phrase of place *around the corner* causes the subject *house* to come after the verb *is*. In the last example the prepositional phrase of place *beyond the mountains* causes the subject *town* to come after the verb *lies*.

It is important (and a bit difficult) to understand that the subject and verb will invert after place expressions at the beginning of a sentence only when the place expression is *necessary* to complete the sentence. Study the following examples:

In the forest are many exotic birds.

In the forest I walked for many hours.

In the first example the subject *birds* and verb *are* are inverted because the place expression *in the forest* is needed to complete the idea *many exotic birds are....* In the second example the subject *I* and the verb *walked* are not inverted because the idea *I walked for many hours* is complete without the place expression *in the forest*; the place expression is therefore not needed to complete the sentence.

The following example shows how this sentence pattern could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests



On the second level of the parking lot _____.

- (A) is empty
- (B) are empty
- (C) some empty stalls are
- (D) are some empty stalls

This example begins with the place expression *on the second level of the parking lot*, which consists of two prepositional phrases, *on the second level* and *of the parking lot*. This sentence needs a subject and a verb to be complete, and the two answers that contain both a subject, *stalls*, and verb, *are*, are answers (C) and (D). The subject and verb should be inverted because the place expression is necessary to complete the idea *some empty stalls are....* The best answer is therefore answer (D).

The following chart lists the sentence patterns used with place expressions:

INVERTED SUBJECTS AND VERBS WITH PLACE EXPRESSIONS		
When a place expression at the front of the sentence is <i>necessary</i> to complete the sentence, the subject and verb that follow <i>are</i> inverted.		
PLACE (necessary)	V	S
<i>In the classroom</i>	<i>were some old desks.</i>	
When a place expression at the front of the sentence contains <i>extra</i> information that is <i>not</i> needed to complete the sentence, the subject and verb that follow <i>are not</i> inverted.		
PLACE (extra)	S	V
<i>In the classroom,</i>	<i>I studied very hard.</i>	

EXERCISE 16: Each of the following sentences contains an expression of place at the beginning of the sentence. Circle the expressions of place. Look at the clauses that immediately follow the place expressions and underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- C 1. (In front of the house) were some giant trees.
- I 2. (There) a big house is on the corner.
3. In the cave was a vast treasure of gems and jewels.
4. To the north the stream is that the settlers will have to cross.
5. Around the corner are the offices that you are trying to find.
6. At the Italian restaurant was the food too spicy for my taste.
7. Nowhere in the world farmers can grow such delicious food.
8. In the backyard the two trees are that need to be pruned.
9. Around the recreation hall and down the path are the tents where we will be staying this week.
10. In the apartment next to mine a man and a woman were having a heated discussion.

SKILL 17: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERB WITH NEGATIVES

The subject and verb can also be inverted after certain negatives and related expressions. When negative expressions, such as *no*, *not*, or *never*, come at the beginning of a sentence, the subject and verb are inverted.

Not once did I miss a question.

Never has Mr. Jones taken a vacation.

At no time can the woman talk on the telephone.

In the first example the negative expression *not once* causes the subject *I* to come after the helping verb *did*. In the second example the negative word *never* causes the subject *Mr. Jones* to come after the helping verb *has*. In the last example the negative expression *at no time* causes the subject *woman* to come after the helping verb *can*.

Certain words in English, such as *hardly*, *barely*, *scarcely*, and *only*, act like negatives. If one of these words comes at the beginning of a sentence, the subject and verb are also inverted.

Hardly ever does he take time off.

(This means that he *almost never* takes time off.)

Only once did the manager issue overtime paychecks.

(This means that the manager *almost never* issued overtime paychecks.)

In the first example the “almost negative” expression *hardly ever* causes the subject *he* to come after the helping verb *does*. In the second example the “almost negative” expression *only once* causes the subject *manager* to come after the helping verb *did*.

When a negative expression appears in front of a subject and verb in the middle of a sentence, the subject and verb are also inverted. This happens often with the negative words *neither* and *nor*.

I do not want to go, and *neither* does Tom.

The secretary is not attending the meeting, *nor* is her boss.

In the first example the negative *neither* causes the subject *Tom* to come after the helping verb *does*. In the second example the negative *nor* causes the subject *boss* to come after the verb *is*.

The following example shows how this sentence pattern could be tested in structure questions on the TOEFL test.

Example from the Paper and Computer TOEFL® Tests  

Only in extremely dangerous situations _____ stopped.

- (A) will be the printing presses
- (B) the printing presses will be
- (C) that the printing presses will be
- (D) will the printing presses be

In this example you should notice that the sentence begins with the negative *only*, so an inverted subject and verb are needed. Answer (D) contains a correctly inverted subject and verb, with the helping verb *will*, the subject *printing presses*, and the main verb *be*, so answer (D) is the best answer.

The following chart lists the negative expressions and the sentence pattern used with them:

INVERTED SUBJECTS AND VERBS WITH NEGATIVES					
<i>no</i>	<i>not</i>	<i>never</i>	<i>neither</i>	<i>nor</i>	
<i>barely</i>	<i>hardly</i>	<i>only</i>	<i>rarely</i>	<i>scarcely</i>	<i>seldom</i>
When a negative expression appears <i>in front of</i> a subject and verb (at the beginning of a sentence or in the middle of a sentence) the subject and verb <i>are</i> inverted.					
negative expression			V	S	
<i>Rarely</i>			<i>were they so happy.</i>		

EXERCISE 17: Each of the following sentences contains a negative or “almost negative” expression. Circle the negative expressions. Look at the clauses that follow and underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. (Never) the boy wrote to his sisters.
- C 2. (On no occasion) did they say that to me.
- _____ 3. Steve did not win the prize, nor did he expect to do so.
- _____ 4. Only once in my life gone I have to New York City.
- _____ 5. Did he go out of the house at no time.
- _____ 6. Seldom their secretary has made such mistakes.
- _____ 7. No sooner had she hung up the phone than it rang again.
- _____ 8. Sheila did not arrive late for work, nor she left early.
- _____ 9. Barely had he finished the exam when the graduate assistant collected the papers.
- _____ 10. The police did not arrive in time to save the girl, and neither did the paramedics.

SKILL 18: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERB WITH CONDITIONALS

In certain conditional structures, the subject and verb may also be inverted. This can occur when the helping verb in the conditional clause is *had*, *should*, or *were*, and the conditional connector *if* is omitted.

If he had taken more time, the results would have been better.

Had he taken more time, the results would have been better.