

Ways to Add Emphasis in English

Extensive Practice Worksheet for B2–C1 Learners

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Score: _____ / _____

This worksheet practises:

- emphatic do, does and did
- negative and limiting inversion
- so, such and formal inversion
- it-cleft, what-cleft and all-cleft sentences
- fronting and the passive voice
- the present continuous with always and related adverbs
- intensifying adverbs and even
- Cambridge-style key word transformations

Exercise 1: Identify the Emphasis Structure

Match each sentence with the correct structure. Write the appropriate letter in the gap.

A. Emphatic auxiliary	B. Negative inversion	C. It-cleft sentence	D. What-cleft sentence	E. Passive voice
F. Fronting	G. Present continuous with always	H. So or such	I. Intensifying adverb	J. Even for emphasis

- I do appreciate your help. _____
- Never have I heard such a ridiculous excuse. _____
- It was James who suggested the change. _____
- What worries me most is the lack of communication. _____
- The final decision will be announced tomorrow. _____
- This problem, we must solve immediately. _____
- She is always borrowing my clothes. _____
- It was such a difficult task that several people gave up. _____
- I strongly believe the policy should change. _____
- Even Mark agreed with the proposal. _____

Exercise 2: Emphatic Do, Does and Did

Rewrite each sentence using do, does or did to add emphasis. Keep the original tense and meaning.

- I understand why you are upset.

- She works very hard, despite what people say.

3. They need more time to complete the work.

4. He apologised for his behaviour in the end.

5. We sent the documents yesterday.

6. The new system seems easier to use.

7. I enjoyed the performance, although the reviews were poor.

8. Maria remembers meeting him before.

9. The committee considered every possible option.

10. Please let me know what you decide. Begin with Do.

Exercise 3: Negative and Limiting Inversion

Rewrite each sentence beginning with the words given. Make all necessary changes to the word order.

1. I had never seen such a crowded station.

Begin: Never ...

2. She rarely speaks so openly about her feelings.

Begin: Rarely ...

3. You must not reveal this password under any circumstances.

Begin: Under no circumstances ...

4. We realised the scale of the problem only then.

Begin: Only then ...

5. They understood the instructions only after the trainer demonstrated the process.

Begin: Only after ...

6. The company did not admit responsibility at any time.

Begin: At no time ...

7. She had hardly sat down when the telephone rang.

Begin: Hardly ...

8. We had no sooner left the building than the alarm went off.

Begin: No sooner ...

9. He not only forgot the appointment, but he also blamed me.

Begin: Not only ...

10. They did not finish the report until midnight.

Begin: Not until ...

Exercise 4: So, Such and Formal Inversion

Complete or rewrite the sentences as instructed.

1. The book was _____ interesting that I read it twice. (so / such)

2. It was _____ an expensive restaurant that we decided not to eat there. (so / such)

3. They are _____ helpful colleagues that everyone enjoys working with them. (so / such)

4. She spoke _____ quietly that I could hardly hear her. (so / such)

5. The weather was terrible. We cancelled the picnic. Join the sentences using such ... that.

6. The presentation was extremely impressive. Everyone applauded. Join the sentences using so ... that.

7. Her disappointment was so great that she could not speak. Begin with So great ...

8. The storm was so powerful that several trees fell. Begin with Such ...

9. The situation changed so quickly that nobody could react. Begin with So quickly ...

10. It was a very confusing explanation. Rewrite using such.

Exercise 5: Cleft Sentences

Rewrite each sentence using the type of cleft sentence indicated.

1. Anna discovered the mistake, not Peter.

Use an it-cleft sentence.

2. The lack of reliable information concerns me most.

Begin with What.

3. We need more time, not more staff.

Use a what-cleft sentence.

4. They first met in Edinburgh.

Use an it-cleft sentence to emphasise the place.

5. The argument began during the final meeting.

Use an it-cleft sentence to emphasise the time.

6. I only want a clear explanation.

Begin with All.

7. She asked one simple question; that was all she did.

Begin with All.

8. Regular practice makes the greatest difference.

Use an it-cleft sentence.

9. His calm reaction surprised us most.

Begin with What.

10. I meant that the proposal needed more thought.

Begin with What I meant ...

Exercise 6: Fronting and the Passive Voice

Follow the instruction in brackets. Keep the meaning as close as possible to the original.

1. I simply cannot accept that explanation.

(Front the object.)

2. An old stone house stood on the hill.

(Front the place expression.)

3. A handwritten letter lay inside the box.

(Front the place expression.)

4. The need for better training is particularly important.
(Front the adjective phrase.)

5. The committee will announce the results tomorrow.
(Use the passive voice.)

6. Someone stole my bicycle outside the station.
(Use the passive voice.)

7. Experts believe that the company is planning major changes.
(Use a passive reporting structure beginning The company ...)

8. People expect prices to rise next year.
(Use a passive reporting structure beginning Prices ...)

9. The storm damaged several buildings.
(Use the passive voice and focus on the buildings.)

10. We must solve this problem immediately.
(Front the object.)

Exercise 7: Always, Intensifiers and Even

Complete or rewrite the sentences to create the meaning described.

1. My brother repeatedly takes my charger, and it annoys me. Use always + present continuous.

2. The manager repeatedly changes the schedule, and the staff are frustrated. Use constantly + present continuous.

3. She helps other people whenever she can, and I admire this. Use always + present continuous.

4. He loses his keys very often, and I find it amusing. Use forever + present continuous.

5. Choose the best intensifier: The news was _____ surprising. (deeply / highly / strongly)

6. Choose the best intensifier: We _____ understand the difficulties. (fully / utterly / heavily)

7. Choose the best intensifier: Her behaviour was _____ unacceptable. (completely / highly / deeply)

8. Choose the best intensifier: I _____ disagree with this conclusion. (strongly / absolutely / deeply)

9. Rewrite to emphasise that Tom was the least likely person to agree: Tom agreed with the proposal.

10. Rewrite to emphasise the surprising absence of an apology: She did not apologise.

11. Correct the collocation: The room was very freezing.

12. Correct the collocation: He was utterly tired after the journey.

Exercise 8: Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Never I have seen such a beautiful landscape.

2. She did explained the problem very clearly.

3. It was so difficult task that nobody completed it.

4. What I need are a few days off.

5. It was yesterday when we received the results.

6. Under no circumstances you should open this door.

7. No sooner we had arrived than the meeting began.

8. He is always arriving early. (The speaker intends a neutral statement.)

9. The proposal is believed that it will save money.

10. Such impressive was her performance that the audience stood up.

Exercise 9: Cambridge-Style Key Word Transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between two and five words, including the word given. Do not change the word given.

1. I really understand how difficult the situation is.

DO

I _____ how difficult the situation is.

2. I had never visited such an impressive museum before.

HAVE

Never _____ such an impressive museum.

3. Sarah gave me the useful advice, not Tom.

WAS

It _____ me the useful advice, not Tom.

4. The cost worries me most.

WHAT

_____ most is the cost.

5. The company will publish the report next week.

BE

The report _____ next week.

6. The lecture was so boring that several students left.

SUCH

It was _____ that several students left.

7. We only understood the problem after we saw the figures.

DID

Only after we saw the figures _____ the problem.

8. The moment she arrived, the telephone rang.

HARDLY

Hardly _____ the telephone rang.

9. The storm was so violent that flights were cancelled.

SUCH

Such _____ that flights were cancelled.

10. Experts think the painting is worth several million pounds.

BELIEVED

The painting _____ worth several million pounds.

11. He forgot my birthday again, which is very annoying.

ALWAYS

He _____ my birthday.

12. I only need a little more time.

ALL

_____ a little more time.

Exercise 10: Mixed Sentence Rewriting

Rewrite each sentence using a suitable emphasis structure. More than one answer may be possible.

1. I want to emphasise that I did send the application before the deadline.

2. The absence of clear instructions is the main problem.

3. The meeting became tense only after the manager arrived.

4. The restaurant was extremely expensive, so we left.

5. A small wooden cottage stood at the edge of the forest.

6. People say that the new director is planning a complete reorganisation.

7. My colleague repeatedly interrupts me, which is irritating.

8. Nobody had ever treated her so kindly before.

Exercise 11: Guided Writing

Write complete sentences. Use each emphasis structure accurately and naturally.

1. Write one sentence with emphatic do, does or did to correct a misunderstanding.

2. Write one sentence beginning with Never, Rarely or Under no circumstances.

3. Write one it-cleft sentence and one what-cleft sentence about work, study or daily life.

4. Write a short paragraph of 70–90 words about an annoying habit. Include always/constantly + present continuous, one intensifying adverb and one cleft sentence.

Answer Key

Suggested answers are provided. In open rewriting tasks, other grammatically correct answers may also be possible.

Exercise 1

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D
5. E
6. F
7. G
8. H
9. I
10. J

Exercise 2

1. I do understand why you are upset.
2. She does work very hard, despite what people say.
3. They do need more time to complete the work.
4. He did apologise for his behaviour in the end.
5. We did send the documents yesterday.
6. The new system does seem easier to use.
7. I did enjoy the performance, although the reviews were poor.
8. Maria does remember meeting him before.
9. The committee did consider every possible option.
10. Do let me know what you decide.

Exercise 3

1. Never had I seen such a crowded station.
2. Rarely does she speak so openly about her feelings.
3. Under no circumstances must you reveal this password.
4. Only then did we realise the scale of the problem.
5. Only after the trainer demonstrated the process did they understand the instructions.
6. At no time did the company admit responsibility.
7. Hardly had she sat down when the telephone rang.
8. No sooner had we left the building than the alarm went off.
9. Not only did he forget the appointment, but he also blamed me.
10. Not until midnight did they finish the report.

Exercise 4

1. so
2. such
3. such
4. so
5. It was such terrible weather that we cancelled the picnic.
6. The presentation was so impressive that everyone applauded.
7. So great was her disappointment that she could not speak.
8. Such was the power of the storm that several trees fell.
9. So quickly did the situation change that nobody could react.
10. It was such a confusing explanation.

Exercise 5

1. It was Anna who discovered the mistake, not Peter.
2. What concerns me most is the lack of reliable information.
3. What we need is more time, not more staff.
4. It was in Edinburgh that they first met.
5. It was during the final meeting that the argument began.
6. All I want is a clear explanation.
7. All she did was ask one simple question.
8. It is regular practice that makes the greatest difference.
9. What surprised us most was his calm reaction.
10. What I meant was that the proposal needed more thought.

Exercise 6

1. That explanation, I simply cannot accept.
2. On the hill stood an old stone house.
3. Inside the box lay a handwritten letter.
4. Particularly important is the need for better training.
5. The results will be announced tomorrow.
6. My bicycle was stolen outside the station.
7. The company is believed to be planning major changes.
8. Prices are expected to rise next year.
9. Several buildings were damaged by the storm.
10. This problem, we must solve immediately.

Exercise 7

1. My brother is always taking my charger.
2. The manager is constantly changing the schedule.
3. She is always helping other people.
4. He is forever losing his keys.
5. highly
6. fully
7. completely
8. strongly
9. Even Tom agreed with the proposal.
10. She did not even apologise.
11. The room was absolutely freezing.
12. He was completely exhausted / very tired after the journey.

Exercise 8

1. Never have I seen such a beautiful landscape.
2. She did explain the problem very clearly.
3. It was such a difficult task that nobody completed it.
4. What I need is a few days off.
5. It was yesterday that we received the results.
6. Under no circumstances should you open this door.
7. No sooner had we arrived than the meeting began.
8. He always arrives early.
9. The proposal is believed to save money. / It is believed that the proposal will save money.
10. So impressive was her performance that the audience stood up.

Exercise 9

1. do understand
2. have I visited
3. was Sarah who gave
4. What worries me
5. will be published
6. such a boring lecture
7. did we understand
8. had she arrived when
9. was the violence of the storm
10. is believed to be
11. is always forgetting
12. All I need is

Exercise 10: Suggested Answers

1. I did send the application before the deadline.
2. What concerns me most is the absence of clear instructions.
3. Only after the manager arrived did the meeting become tense.
4. It was such an expensive restaurant that we left. / The restaurant was so expensive that we left.
5. At the edge of the forest stood a small wooden cottage.
6. The new director is said to be planning a complete reorganisation.
7. My colleague is always interrupting me.
8. Never before had anybody treated her so kindly.

Exercise 11

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence uses the requested structure accurately and that the emphatic element is clear from the context.

Teacher's note

- Award one point for each fully correct objective answer.
- In rewriting tasks, accept reasonable alternatives that preserve the original meaning.
- For the guided paragraph, assess grammatical accuracy, range of emphasis structures and natural use in context.