

C1 Advanced Grammar Structures

Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Practise inversion, advanced conditionals, wishes, cleft sentences, comparison and concession. Complete the tasks without looking back at the lesson, then check your answers.

Exercise 1 Choose the correct answer

Circle the correct option.

1. No sooner had we submitted the application (than / when) the university requested another document.
2. Hardly (had I closed / I had closed) the door when the telephone rang.
3. Only after I had read the report (I understood / did I understand) the seriousness of the problem.
4. Under no circumstances (you should reveal / should you reveal) your password.
5. Had she known about the delay, she (would leave / would have left) later.
6. Were the company (to reduce / reducing) its prices, demand might increase.
7. It is high time the council (takes / took) action.
8. I would rather you (do not use / did not use) my computer without asking.
9. Much as I (am agreeing / agree) with the principle, the proposal is too expensive.
10. However (carefully / careful) you explain it, some people may misunderstand.

Exercise 2 Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Not only the lecture was informative, but it was also entertaining.

2. No sooner had the match started when it began to snow.

3. Only when I spoke to Marta I realised what had happened.

4. Not until the following morning she discovered the missing keys.

5. On no account visitors must feed the animals.

6. If had I seen the warning, I would have been more careful.

7. It is high time we make a final decision.

8. I would rather you told me about the problem yesterday.

9. The more you will practise, the more fluent you will become.

10. However difficult is the task, we must finish it today.

Exercise 3 Key word transformations

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

1. I did not realise how serious the situation was until I spoke to the doctor.

ONLY

_____ the doctor did I realise how serious the situation was.

2. The train left immediately after we reached the platform.

SOONER

No _____ the platform than the train left.

3. You must never disclose this information to anyone.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Under _____ this information to anyone.

4. I regret not accepting their offer.

WISH

I _____ their offer.

5. Without Eva's help, I could not have completed the project.

BUT

_____, I could not have completed the project.

6. If you require assistance, press this button.

SHOULD

_____, press this button.

7. I want you to stop interrupting me.

RATHER

I _____ interrupting me.

8. His calm reaction surprised me most.

WHAT

_____ how calmly he reacted.

9. Anna first suggested postponing the meeting.

WHO

It _____ postponing the meeting.

10. Although I respect his experience, I disagree with his conclusion.

MUCH

_____, I disagree with his conclusion.

Exercise 4 Rewrite for emphasis

Rewrite each sentence using the words in brackets. Keep the meaning the same.

1. We rarely see such dedication among new employees. (Rarely)

2. I had never experienced such intense heat before. (Never before)

3. He had no idea that the photograph would become famous. (Little did)

4. I understood the instructions only after watching the demonstration. (Only after)

5. The lack of reliable evidence concerns me most. (What)

6. Regular feedback makes the greatest difference. (It is)

7. If I were offered the role, I would consider moving abroad. (Were)

8. If we had booked earlier, we would have paid less. (Had)

Exercise 5 Complete the text

Complete each gap with one suitable word. Contractions count as one word.

When I began my new job, little (1) _____ I know how demanding it would be. No sooner (2) _____ I arrived on my first morning than I was invited to an important meeting. Not only (3) _____ I unfamiliar with the project, but I had also never met most of the team. Much (4) _____ I wanted to appear confident, I decided that honesty was wiser. I explained that I needed time to study the details. What surprised me (5) _____ was how positively my colleagues responded. Only after the meeting (6) _____ I begin to relax. Had I (7) _____ to pretend that I understood everything, I might have made a serious mistake. It is high (8) _____ workplaces recognised that asking sensible questions is a strength. The more openly people communicate, the (9) _____ effectively they work together. However experienced you (10) _____, there is always something new to learn.

Exercise 6 Build accurate sentences

Put the words in the correct order. Add capital letters and punctuation.

1. did / until / not / apologise / he / complained / I

2. should / details / require / contact / further / you / us

3. carefully / however / prepared / she / nervous / felt / she

4. support / but / your / succeeded / never / for / have / I / would

5. time / we / high / reconsidered / it / approach / our / is

6. experience / gain / confident / more / the / become / you / the / you / more

Exercise 7 Use the structures yourself

Complete the ideas so that they are true or meaningful for you. Aim for accurate, natural sentences.

1. Not only do I _____, but I also _____.

2. Had I known _____, I would have _____.

3. I would rather _____ than _____.

4. What I find most challenging about English is _____.

5. The more _____, the more _____.

6. Much as I _____, _____.

Writing challenge

Write 120–150 words about a difficult decision, an unexpected experience or a change you would like to see. Use at least four structures from the lesson and underline them.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1 than 2 had I closed 3 did I understand 4 should you reveal 5 would have left 6 to reduce 7 took 8 did not use 9 agree 10 carefully

Exercise 2

1. Not only was the lecture informative, but it was also entertaining.
2. No sooner had the match started than it began to snow.
3. Only when I spoke to Marta did I realise what had happened.
4. Not until the following morning did she discover the missing keys.
5. On no account must visitors feed the animals.
6. Had I seen the warning, I would have been more careful.
7. It is high time we made a final decision.
8. I would rather you had told me about the problem yesterday.
9. The more you practise, the more fluent you will become.
10. However difficult the task is, we must finish it today.

Exercise 3

1. Only after speaking to
2. sooner had we reached
3. no circumstances must you disclose
4. wish I had accepted
5. But for Eva's help
6. Should you require assistance
7. would rather you stopped
8. What surprised me most was
9. was Anna who first suggested

10. Much as I respect his experience

Exercise 4

1. Rarely do we see such dedication among new employees.
2. Never before had I experienced such intense heat.
3. Little did he know that the photograph would become famous.
4. Only after watching the demonstration did I understand the instructions.
5. What concerns me most is the lack of reliable evidence.
6. It is regular feedback that makes the greatest difference.
7. Were I to be offered the role, I would consider moving abroad.
8. Had we booked earlier, we would have paid less.

Exercise 5

1 did 2 had 3 was 4 as 5 most 6 did 7 tried 8 time 9 more 10 are

Exercise 6

1. Not until I complained did he apologise.
2. Should you require further details, contact us.
3. However carefully she prepared, she felt nervous.
4. But for your support, I would never have succeeded.
5. It is high time we reconsidered our approach.
6. The more experience you gain, the more confident you become.

Exercises 7 and Writing challenge

Learners' own answers. Check that each structure follows the required word order and tense pattern, and that it is used for a clear purpose.

Quick reference

Structure	Pattern reminder
No sooner	No sooner + had + subject + past participle + than
Hardly or scarcely	Hardly or scarcely + had + subject + past participle + when
Only or negative expression	Opening expression + auxiliary + subject + main verb
Inverted conditional	Had, were or should + subject; do not add if
High time	It is high time + subject + past simple
Would rather	Different subject: past simple; past regret: past perfect
Cleft sentence	What + clause + be; It + be + focus + who or that
Double comparative	The + comparative, the + comparative
Much as	Much as + subject + verb, main clause
However	However + adjective or adverb + subject + verb