

SENTENCES WITH INVERTED SUBJECTS AND VERBS _____

Skill 15: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERBS WITH QUESTION WORDS

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).

- ___ 1. The phone company is not certain (when) will the new directories be ready.
- ___ 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

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).

- ___ 1. In front of the house were some giant trees.
- ___ 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 SUBJECT AND VERBS WITH NEGATIVES

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).

- ___ 1. Never the boy wrote to his sisters.
- ___ 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:

EXERCISE 18: Each of the following sentences contains a conditional with a stated or an implied *if*. Circle the conditionals, or put an asterisk (*) where *if* has been omitted. 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).

- ___ 1. Were our neighbors a bit more friendly, it would be somewhat easier to get to know them.
- ___ 2. There are plenty of blankets in the closet if should you get cold during the night.
- ___ 3. Has he enough vacation days left this year, he will take two full weeks off in December.
- ___ 4. Had we been informed of the decision, we might have had something to say about it.

- ___ 5. I would like to know could you help me pack these boxes.
- ___ 6. He would have been in big trouble had not he remembered the assignment at the last minute.
- ___ 7. If your friends come to visit, will they stay in a hotel or at your house?
- ___ 8. He might be a little more successful today were he a little more willing to do some hard work.
- ___ 9. Should you ever visit this town again, I would be delighted to show you around.
- ___ 10. Do you think that she would give the speech were she asked to do so?

Skill 19: INVERT THE SUBJECT AND VERB WITH COMPARISONS

EXERCISE 19: Each of the following sentences contains a comparison. Circle the comparisons. 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).

- ___ 1. This candidate has received more votes than has any other candidate in previous years.
- ___ 2. Obviously we were much more impressed with the performance than did the other members of the audience.
- ___ 3. The film that we saw last night at the festival was far better than any of the other films.
- ___ 4. The vegetables at the market this morning were far fresher than were those at the market yesterday.
- ___ 5. I am afraid that is the condition of these tires as bad as the condition of the others.
- ___ 6. We firmly believed that our team could achieve a much faster time than any of the others.
- ___ 7. This apple pie is not as good as the last one that you made.
- ___ 8. On the fishing trip, Bobby caught twice as many fish as anyone else did.
- ___ 9. The final speaker gave us more details than had any of the previous speakers.
- ___ 10. Do you know why does he need to sleep so many more hours than do the others?

EXERCISE (Skills 15-19): Each of these sentences contains a structure that could require an inverted subject and verb. Circle the structures that may require inverted subjects and verbs. Underline the subjects once and the verbs twice. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- ___ 1. The town council is not sure why have the land developers changed their plans.
- ___ 2. Never in the world I believed that this would happen.
- ___ 3. The day might have been a little more enjoyable had the sun been out a little more.

- ___ 4. Only once did the judge take the defense lawyer's suggestion.
- ___ 5. Down the hall to the left the offices are that need to be painted.
- ___ 6. Did the scientist explain what he put in the beaker?
- ___ 7. Hardly ever it snows in this section of the country.
- ___ 8. Elijah scored more points in yesterday's basketball final than had any other player in history.
- ___ 9. In the state of California, earthquakes occur regularly.
- ___ 10. He should ever call again, please tell him that I am not at home.