



WORD (DIS)ORDER

The general rule for word order in English (SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLEMENT) can be changed for reasons of emphasis, specially when the sentence starts with an negative adverbial, although there are also other examples. This structure is used when you want to produce a dramatic effect, for example in story-telling, stating strong opinions and giving rules. Read the sentences on the right and match them to their corresponding "dramatic" version.

1. I have never heard a weaker excuse!	a. No sooner had she entered the classroom than they started laughing.
2. Downloading music is strictly forbidden.	b. Not only was I hungry, (but) I was also thirsty.
3. The moment she entered the classroom, they started laughing.	c. Scarcely had I entered the room, when the telephone rang.
4. When I saw her at the party I remembered her name.	d. Little did the police suspect that the butler was the murderer.
5. I was not only hungry, but I was also thirsty.	e. At no time did he admit he had done it.
6. When I entered the room, the phone rang.	f. On no account are you allowed to download music.
7. The police didn't suspect that the butler was the murderer.	g. Never have I heard a weaker excuse!
8. If you happen to come to Asturias, call me.	h. Under no circumstances should you leave a baby alone.
9. He never admitted he had done it.	i. Seldom is Mark so late.
10. It's not common for Mark to be so late.	j. Hardly had we arrived when the meeting finished.
11. We had just arrived when the meeting finished.	k. Should you come to Asturias, call me.
12. Never leave a baby alone.	l. Only when I saw her at the party, did I remember her name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----