INVERSION STRUCTURES

1 ) Negative adverbial expressions:

a) seldom, rarely, never, hardly, scarcely, no sooner, only

They need an auxiliary before the main verb. Examples:
-Seldom did we eat in such expensive restaurants.
-Never have I seen a bigger pair of idiots.
-Rarely have I felt so ridiculous.

b) Hardly/Scarcely + WHEN
No Sooner + THAN
These are used at the beginning of a sentence to talk about one thing happening after another. Examples:
-Hardly had I started work when the new boss arrived.
-Scarcely had I put down the receiver when the phone rang again.
-No sooner had she had her first baby than the second was due.

2 ) Dramatic effect:

a) Adverbial expressions at the beginning of a sentence.
-Where the money goes, I don’t know.
-Over the hill passed those black clouds.

b) AS
-He was hooked on cocaine as were most of his friends.

3 ) Conditionals:

a) In open conditionals, IF can be substituted by SHOULD.
-Should you come to London, you must visit me.

b) In hypothetical conditionals in present WERE can replace IF.
-Were I given such a lot of money, I wouldn’t know what to do with it.

c) In past hypothetical conditionals HAD can replace IF.
-Had I known you were coming, I would have cooked something better.
4) ONLY / NO / LITTLE

At the beginning of the sentence, they make it more formal and/or emphatic.
-Little did they know that alcohol could have such an effect.
-Only after eating up the food did he say a word.
-On no account would I lend him any money.

5) EXCLAMATIONS

Very often in the negative form.
-Isn't she stupid!
-Am I angry!

Underline inversion structures in this letter:

Dear sirs,
I wish to point out my dissatisfaction to those concerned with the marketing, distribution and quality control of your wine.

Had I purchased a carton of Don Simon, I would not find myself writing this letter now. Only after trying to drink your wine did I regret my choice. Life offers a number of pleasures, your wine has counted among them until recently. Under no circumstances would I now consider purchasing your product again.

After opening the first bottle, which tasted like vinegar, I was somewhat disappointed. However, seldom have I felt so cheated as when I found that the whole case, of twelve, tasted the same. When one considers that a bottle of your wine is 50 euros, I think, never in the history of mankind could vinegar have cost so much.

Not only do I feel disappointed but I also have the sensation of having been robbed. Should it be the norm that your wine tastes as previously mentioned, I care for no compensation. However, should this not be the case, I would like to demand some recompense not only for my capital outlay but also for the severe disappointment I received.

Yours faithfully.