A Weekend Off!

We rarely have much time to ourselves. Our schedule is so busy that we just can’t find the time to get out of the house. My husband and I both work full time and also have two small kids to look after. I had no idea that my parents were planning a special surprise for me this weekend. I only discovered what they had planned when I walked in the front door on Friday night. As soon as I opened the door, they appeared with a bottle of wine and the news that they were taking the kids to the local theme park for the weekend. Obviously the kids were ecstatic, they haven’t been to the theme park since they were four years old and that was just for 1 day, now they were going for a whole weekend! We were so grateful that we gave my mum and dad a massive hug. However, there had to be some ground rules for the kids. We told them that they shouldn’t annoy grandma and grandad under any circumstances and that they mustn’t eat too many sweets before going on the roller coasters on any account.

The moment my parents left the house we opened the bottle of wine and sat on the sofa enjoying the sudden peace and quiet. We didn’t realise how tired we were until we sat down. We hardly ever get a chance to watch a movie together over a glass of wine. However, as soon as we had chosen a movie and started watching it, we both fell asleep. It wasn’t until the next morning when we woke up that we truly appreciated how quiet the house was. We hadn’t had the house to ourselves since our second daughter was born. We didn’t know what to do with ourselves!

**Inversions - Language Focus**

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| --- | --- |
| ***“As soon as” Inversions:***   * No sooner had…. than….   **No sooner *had we*** got out of the car **than** it started raining.   * Hardly/barely/scarcely had….. when   **Hardly *had I***got in the shower **when** the phone rang. | ***Adverb of frequency Inversions:***   * Hardly ever….   **Hardly ever *do I*** go out for dinner.   * Rarely/seldom…..   **Rarely *does he*** do the washing-up.   * Never before….   **Never before *have I*** eaten such lovely food. |
| ***Extras***   * So + adjective + that + consequence   **So cold *was the water*** that we couldn’t go swimming.   * Not only… but also   **Not only *can you*** take photos with the phone, but also videos.   * Little did I know…   **Little *did I* know** that he had planned a surprise. | ***Time adverbial Inversions***   * Only when….   **Only when** I got home ***did I* realise** someone had stolen my wallet.   * Not since….   **Not since** my 10th birthday party ***have I* eaten** marshmallows.   * Not until….   **Not until** the end of the book ***do you* find out** who the murderer is. |
| ***Prohibition Inversions***   * Under no circumstances….   **Under no circumstances *should/must you*** open this door.   * On no account….   **On no account *should/must you*** feed the animals. |  |

There are 10 sentences in the first paragraph of the text that can be changed to include an inversion.

1. Rarely...............................................................................
2. So...............................................................................
3. Not...............................................................................
4. Little ...............................................................................
5. Only when...............................................................................
6. No...............................................................................
7. Not since...............................................................................
8. So...............................................................................
9. Under...............................................................................
10. On...............................................................................

There are 6 more in the second paragraph:

1. Hardly...............................................................................
2. Not until...............................................................................
3. Hardly ever...............................................................................
4. Barely...............................................................................
5. Not until...............................................................................
6. Not since...............................................................................

### Creative Practice

Continue the story of the couple on their weekend off; what did they do next? Use as many inversions as you can.