

EMPHASIS

There are many ways of emphasizing a part of a sentence. Basic patterns are the following:

1. *What is/was (that / the way, the fact) ...*

What research has shown **is that** long-term investment produces positive results.

What made it an army **was the way** it was organized.

What I like about John **is the fact** he is so honest.

2. *It is / was ... that / who ...*

It is the art market **that** interests us now.

It was John **who** broke the vase.

3. Something ... **is what / is who**

Drill **is what** transformed these men into an army.

Money **is what** makes the world go round.

John **is who** you should talk to.

4. Inversion

- certain expressions with a negative or restrictive meaning can be put at the beginning of a sentence for EMPHASIS.
- this happens mainly in written English or in a very formal style of speaking, such as a public speech.
- the order of the subject and the verb is REVERSED.
- inversion can also take place with certain conditional sentences.

INVERSION typically takes place:

- after **negative** sentence openers

*I have **never** seen such a horrible thing in all my life.*

→

***Never** in all my life have I seen such a horrible thing.*

***No sooner** had I walked into the door than the phone rang.*

***On no account** should the house be left unlocked.*

***Under no circumstances** should you lend Paul any money.*

***Not only** are there problems with the students, **but also** with the teachers themselves.*

- after **only, rarely, little**

*I feel safe and secure **only** in this house.*

→

***Only in this house** do I feel safe and secure.*

***Rarely** has a debate attracted so much media attention.*

***Little** did I know that this spelled the end of my career.*

➤ with certain **conditional sentences**

*If **you should** find cause for complaint, return the goods immediately.*

→

***Should** you find cause for complaint, return the goods immediately.*

*If **Holmes hadn't** explained, Watson would never have understood the case.*

→

***Had Holmes not** explained, Watson would never have understood the case.*