

Emphasis

Im Englischen gibt es verschiedene Möglichkeiten, bestimmte Informationen hervorzuheben oder dem Gesagten Nachdruck zu verleihen. Hier einige Beispiele:

do/does/did + infinitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I usually don't like lemon cakes, but these do taste good! ▪ Do have a seat, please.
–self pronouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The queen herself answered my letter! – Don't be silly, she probably has an employee who answers her fan mail. ▪ The girls have made these cookies themselves – their mum didn't have to help them at all!
What ... was/is ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I spent a year in France. What I liked best there was the food. ▪ Boy, Josh is really bad at math, isn't he? – You're right. But what I find interesting is that he still somehow manages to pass all the tests. Maybe he's cheating?
It is/was ... who/which/when...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who talked to Jim? Was it Bob? – No, it was me who talked to him. ▪ You look angry. Did you and Kelly have a row again? – No, it's just the bad weather that's getting on my nerves.
Negative adverbials + inversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hardly / No sooner had we reached the swimming pool when / than it started to rain. ▪ No way am I going parachute jumping! Not only is it too expensive, (but) it's also really dangerous. ▪ Me and my friends were really mean to Jeff when we were children. At no point did we stop to think about his feelings. Little did we know at the time that Jeff would one day be our boss!
Adverbs of degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tom is extremely / very / pretty / really / quite ... intelligent. Other examples: <i>incredibly, hardly, even (more/less), only</i> ...

EXERCISE 1 Find all examples of emphasis in this text.

Aunt Elizabeth: Oh, Tom, Emma! It's so nice that you could come! Do come in.
 Tom: Thanks, Aunt Elizabeth. Oh, that does smell good. Is that fresh apple cake?
 Aunt: Yes, you're right! I know that it's apple cake that you like best. It will have to cool for another hour, but I've also made a few sandwiches. And there's lemonade, too. I've made it myself from organic lemons. Do have some!
 Emma: Thanks! But what I'd really like now is a cup of coffee. I'm a bit tired. Could I have some?
 Aunt: Well, of course! Did you really think I wouldn't have coffee ready when you're coming?
 Emma: Not for a moment could I believe such a thing!

EXERCISE 2 Inversion. Fill in the words from the box.

hardly ▪ than ▪ way ▪ only ▪ did ▪ then ▪ had ▪ never ▪ moment
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- a) No _____ am I going to jump into that lake!
- b) Not _____ do I know that you're wrong, but I can also prove it.
- c) At no point _____ he realize that everyone was making fun of him.
- d) _____ had she finished the task when her teacher gave her the next one.
- e) Not for a _____ did I believe him.
- f) No sooner had I reached the door _____ I realized it was locked.
- g) Only _____ did I know what I had got myself into.
- h) Hardly _____ we started the game when it started to rain.
- i) _____ before had the government made such a great mistake.

EXERCISE 3 Translate these sentences into English, using inversion to add emphasis.

- a) Kaum hatte ich das Auto gewaschen, fing es an zu regnen.
- b) Erst dann bemerkten sie, dass es zu spät war.
- c) Er spricht nicht nur Französisch, sondern kennt auch die französische Kultur gut.
- d) Erst, als ich nach Hause kam, bemerkte ich, dass mein Schlüssel weg war.
- e) Keine Sekunde lang dachte er darüber nach.
- f) Er arbeitete nicht nur im Supermarkt, sondern auch in der Bibliothek.
- g) Nie hatte ich so etwas gesehen.

EXERCISE 4 Use *do / does / did* to add emphasis.

- a) Why didn't you answer my email? – I did answer it, but my internet connection broke down before I could send it.
- b) Would you like some ice-cream? – Yes, please. I _____ (*like*) ice-cream!
- c) This lemonade is delicious. – Oh, _____ (*have*) some more, please!
- d) I'm sorry I can't come to your party, Steve. I _____ (*want*) to come, but I have to help my mum that night.
- e) Kids today don't respect their parents anymore. – I disagree. I think most of us _____ our parents.
- f) Joe, why haven't you done your homework? – But I _____ it. I just can't find it!
- g) _____ (be) quiet – the baby is sleeping!
- h) Usually I don't like fish, but this fish soup _____ (taste) good!

EXERCISE 5 Use an *it is / it was ... who/which/when ...* construction to emphasize the word in bold print.

- a) ... And when we came back, George discovered a hedgehog that had fallen into the cellar.
– No, that's not right. **Lucy** saw the hedgehog. → *It was Lucy who saw the hedgehog.*
- b) Columbus discovered America in 1899, didn't he? – No! He discovered America **in 1499**.
- c) This painting is only a reproduction. The original is displayed in a museum in New York.
– No, it isn't. The original of this painting is displayed **in the Louvre**.
- d) We're going to visit your Aunt Elizabeth tomorrow, aren't we? – No, you've got the dates mixed up. We are going to visit **my grandmother** tomorrow.
- e) Hannah and Amy called Emma last week, didn't they? – No, that's not true. They called Emma **yesterday**.
- f) William Shakespeare wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories. – No, he didn't! **Arthur Conan Doyle** invented Sherlock Holmes.

EXERCISE 6 Fill in the right words.

- a) What she told me _____ very interesting.
- b) What I _____ was to get a lawyer.
- c) What he found _____ an old chest full of gold coins.
- d) That is _____ she told me.
- e) What we did was _____ complain to the manager.

EXERCISE 7 Use a reflexive pronoun (-self, -selves) to add emphasis.

- a) The Queen doesn't give interviews.
- b) Scientists admit that there is no proof for the theory.
- c) The president has not issued a statement.
- d) The secret service does not use this technology.
- e) The author said that her work had been completely misinterpreted.

EXERCISE 8 Find the fitting adverb of degree.

- a) Peter was _____ (*extrem*) shocked.
- b) This young pianist is _____ (*unglaublich*) talented.
- c) That was _____ (*wirklich*) nice.
- d) This soup is _____ (*viel*) too hot.
- e) He is _____ (*erst*) twelve years old.
- f) This book is _____ (*ziemlich*) interessant.
- g) It is _____ (*sehr*) cold outside.
- h) My car is slow, but yours is _____ (*sogar noch*) slower.

EXERCISE 9 Hier sind alle Formen von Betonung vermischt. Vervollständige die Sätze.

- a) He doesn't like dogs, does he? – Oh no, that's not true! He ...
- b) Do you think he stole the jewels? – No, no way ...!
- c) Who saw the accident happen? Was it Lucy? – No, ...!
- d) So they were trapped in the cave? How did they get out of there? – Well, ...
- e) What did the prime minister say about the affair? - ...
- f) Was the book interesting? - ...
- g) Can I have a cookie, please? – Of course, ...

Lösungen

EXERCISE 1 *Aunt Elizabeth:* Oh, Tom, Emma! It's **so** nice that you could come! **Do come** in. *Tom:* Thanks, Aunt Elizabeth. Oh, that **does smell** good. Is that apple cake? *Aunt:* Yes, you're right! I know that **it's apple cake that you like best**. It will have to cool for another hour, but I've made a few sandwiches. And there's lemonade, too. I've made it **myself** from organic lemons. **Do have** some! *Emma:* Thanks! But **what I'd really like now is** a cup of coffee. I'm a bit tired. Could I have some? *Aunt:* Well, of course! Did you **really** think I wouldn't have coffee ready when you're coming? *Emma:* **Not for a moment** could I believe such a thing!

EXERCISE 2 a) No **way** am I going to jump ...! b) Not **only** do I know ...

c) At no point **did** he ... d) **Hardly** had she finished ... e) Not for a **moment** did I believe ... f) No sooner had I ... **than** I realized ... g) Only **then** did I know ... h) Hardly **had** we started ... i) **Never** had the government ...

EXERCISE 3 a) Hardly had I washed the car when it started to rain. b) Only then did they notice that it was too late. c) Not only does he speak French, but he's also very familiar with French culture. d) Only when I got home did I notice that my key was gone. e) Not for a second did he think about it. f) Not only did he work at the supermarket but also at the library. g) Never had I seen such a thing.

EXERCISE 4 b) I **do like** ice-cream! c) Oh, **do have** some more, please! d) I **do want** to come, but ... e) I think most of us **do respect** our parents. f) But I **did do** it. g) **Do be** quiet – the baby is sleeping! h) ... this fish soup **does taste** good!

EXERCISE 5 b) It was in 1499 that Columbus discovered America. c) It is in the Louvre where the original of this painting is displayed.

d) It is my grandma (who) we're going to visit.

e) It was yesterday that they called Emma.

f) It was Arthur Conan Doyle who invented Sherlock Holmes.

EXERCISE 6 a) What she told me **was** very interesting. b) What I **did** was to get a lawyer.

c) What he found **was** an old chest full of gold coins. d) That is **what** she told me.

e) What we did was **(to)** complain to the manager.

EXERCISE 7 a) The Queen **herself** doesn't ... b) Scientists **themselves** admit ...

c) The president **himself** has not ... d) The secret service **itself** does not use ...

e) The author **herself** said that ...

EXERCISE 8 a) Peter was **extremely** shocked. b) This young pianist is **incredibly** talented. c) That was **really** nice. d) This soup is **much** too hot. e) He is **only** twelve years old. f) This book is **pretty** interesting. g) It is **very** cold outside. h) My car is slow, but yours is **even** slower.

EXERCISE 9 a) He **does like** them. b) No, no way **did he do that!**

c) No, **it was not Lucy who saw it**. d) Well, **what they did was to find another exit**.

e) **The prime minister himself didn't say anything**.

f) **It was incredibly interesting. / Not only was it interesting, it was also very thought-provoking**.

g) Of course, **do help yourself!**