Emphasis

**EXERCISE 1** Find all instances of emphasis in this text. What different kinds of emphasis are there?

_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: hardly – than – way – only – did – then – had – never – moment

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) ___________ 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 kann auch köstliche Froschschenkel machen.

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 / 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) Lucy saw the hedgehog. -> *It was Lucy who saw the hedgehog*.

b) Columbus discovered America in 1499.

c) The original of this painting is displayed in the Louvre.

d) We are going to visit my grandmother.

e) They called Emma yesterday.

f) 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) Only then did I know ...
g) Only had the government ...
h) Not for a moment did I believe ...
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 can also make delicious frog legs.
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 think most of us do respect our parents.
e) I was incredibly interested. / Not only was it interesting, it was also very thought-provoking.
f) Do be quiet – the baby is sleeping!

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.

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!