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Not only ... but also

from [English Grammar Today](#)

We use *not only X but also Y* in formal contexts:

*The war caused **not only** destruction and death **but also** generations of hatred between the two communities.*

*The car **not only** is economical **but also** feels good to drive.*

*This investigation is **not only** one that is continuing and worldwide **but also** one that we expect to continue for quite some time.*

We can sometimes leave out *also*:

*I identified with Denzel Washington **not only** as an actor **but** as a person.*

To add emphasis, we can use *not only* at the beginning of a clause. When we do this, we invert the subject and the verb:

***Not only** was it raining all day at the wedding **but also** the band was late.*

***Not only** will they paint the outside of the house **but also** the inside.*

When there is no auxiliary verb or main verb *be*, we use *do*, *does*, *did*:

***Not only** did she forget my birthday, **but** she **also** didn't even apologise for forgetting it.*

See also:

[Inversion](#)






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relative clauses

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Cleft sentences (*It was in June we got married.*)

Inversion

Made from, made of, made out of, made with

No sooner

Not only ... but also

Word order and focus

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