Adding Emphasis
Inversion in English
Ellipses in English

Sources:
http://esl.about.com/od/grammarstructures/a/g_emphasis.htm

http://englishinguiaavanzado.wordpress.com/2009/03/07/how-to-add-emphasis-to-your-english/

http://englishinguiaavanzado.wordpress.com/

http://ourgrammar.blogspot.com/2008/11/unit-3-emphasis-in-english.html

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnitv342.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/youmeus/learnit/learnitv34.shtml

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1535_questionanswer/page55.shtml

Yes, I am vs ~~Yes, I'm~~ http://forum.wordreference.com/showthread.php?t=1630830

There are a number of ways to add emphasis to your sentences in English. Use these forms to emphasize your statements when you are expressing your opinions, disagreeing, making strong suggestions, expressing annoyance, etc.

Use of the Passive

The passive voice is used when focusing on the person or thing affected by an action. Generally, more emphasis is given to the beginning of a sentence. By using a passive sentence, we emphasize by showing what happens to something rather than who or what does something.

Example:

Reports are expected by the end of the week.

In this example, attention is called to what is expected of students (reports).

Inversion

Invert the word order by placing a prepositional phrase or other expression (at no time, suddenly into, little, seldom, never, etc.) at the beginning of the sentence followed by inverted word order.

Examples:

At no time did I say you couldn't come.

Hardly had I arrived when he started complaining.

Little did I understand what was happening.

Seldom have I felt so alone.

Note that the auxiliary verb is placed before the subject which is followed by the main verb.

Expressing Annoyance

Use the continuous form modified by 'always', 'forever', etc. to express annoyance at another person's action. This form is considered an exception as it used to express a **routine** rather than an action occurring at a particular moment in time.

Examples:

Martha is always getting into trouble.

Peter is forever asking tricky questions.

George was always being reprimanded by his teachers.

Note that this form is generally used with the present or past continuous (he is always doing, they were always doing).

Cleft Sentences: It

Sentences introduced by 'It is' or 'It was' are often used to emphasize a specific subject or object. The introductory clause is then followed by a relative pronoun.

Examples:

It was I who received the promotion.

It is the awful weather that drives him crazy.

Cleft Sentences: What

Sentences introduced by a clause beginning with 'What' are also used to emphasize a specific subject or object. The clause introduced by 'What' is employed as the subject of the sentence as

is followed by the verb 'to be'.

Examples:

What we need is a good long shower.

What he thinks isn't necessarily true.

Exceptional Use of 'Do' or 'Did'

You have probably learned that the auxiliary verbs 'do' and 'did' are not used in positive sentences - for example: *He went to the store. NOT He did go to the store.* However, in order to emphasize something we feel strongly these auxiliary verbs can be used as an exception to the rule.

Examples:

No that's not true. John did speak to Mary.

I do believe that you should think twice about this situation.

Note this form is often used to express something contrary to what another person believes.

Cleft sentences are used to help us focus on a particular part of the sentence and to emphasise what we want to say by introducing it or building up to it with a kind of relative clause.

Because there are two parts to the sentence it is called **cleft** (from the verb **cleave**) which means divided into two.

Cleft sentences are particularly useful in writing where we cannot use intonation for purposes of focus or emphasis, but they are also frequently used in speech.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnitv149.shtml

Cleft structures include **the reason why**, **the thing that**, **the person/people who**, **the place where**, **the day when** and **what-clauses** which are usually linked to the clause that we want to focus on with **is** or **was**.

Compare the following sets of sentences and notice how the cleft structure in each case enables us to select the information we want to focus on:

- I've come to discuss my future with you.
- **The reason why** I've come **is** to discuss my future with you.
- Your generosity impresses more than anything else.
- **The thing that** impresses me more than anything else **is** your generosity.
- The jewels are hidden under the floor at 23 Robin Hood Road, Epping.
- **The place where** the jewels are hidden **is** under the floor at 23 Robin Hood Road, Epping.
- Under the floor at 23 Robin Hood Road **is the place where** the jewels are hidden.
- Mary works harder than anybody else in this organisation.
- **The person who** works harder than anybody else in this organisation **is** Mary.
- Mary **is the person** in this organisation **who** works harder than anybody else.
- The Second World War ended on 7 May 1945 in Europe.

- **The day (when)** the Second World War ended in Europe **was** 7 May 1945
- 7 May 1945 **was the day (when)** the Second World War ended in Europe.
- We now need actions rather than words.
- **What** we now need **are** actions rather than words.
- Actions rather than words **are what** we now need.
- I enjoyed the brilliant music most of all in the Ballet Frankfurt performance.
- **What** I enjoyed most in the Ballet Frankfurt performance **was** the brilliant music.
- The brilliant music **was what** I enjoyed most in the Ballet Frankfurt performance.

- Note from the last two examples that cleft structures with **what-clauses** are often used with verbs expressing an emotive response to something like **adore**, **dislike**, **enjoy**, **hate**, **like**, **loathe**, **love**, **need**, **prefer**, **want**, etc.

Cleft structures with what-clauses are also often used with **does/do/did** and with the verb **happen** when we want to give emphasis to the whole sentence, rather than a particular clause.
Compare the following:

- The police interviewed all the witnesses to the accident first.
- **What** the police **did** first **was** (to) interview all the witnesses to the accident.
- You should invest all your money in telecoms companies.
- **What** you should **do is** (to) invest all your money in telecoms companies.
- **What** you should invest all your money in **is** telecoms companies.
- She writes all her novels on a typewriter.
- **What** she **does is** (to) write all her novels on a type writer.
- Their car broke down on the motorway so they didn't get to Jo's wedding on time.
- **What** happened **was that** their car broke down on the motorway so they didn't get to Jo's wedding on time.

It is sometimes very effective to use **all** instead of **what** in a cleft structure if you want to focus on one particular thing and nothing else:

- I want a new coat for Christmas.
- **All** I want for Christmas **is** a new coat.
- A new coat **is all** I want for Christmas.
- I touched the bedside light and it broke.
- **All** I **did was** (to) touch the bedside light and it broke.

Finally, we can also use **preparatory it** in cleft sentences and join the words that we want to focus on to the relative clause with **that**, **who** or **when**.
In the example which follows, note how this construction enables us to focus on different aspects of the information, which may be important at the time:

- My brother bought his new car from our next-door neighbour last Saturday.
- **It was my brother who** bought his new car from our neighbour last Saturday.
- **It was last Saturday when** my brother bought his new car from our neighbour.
- **It was a new car that** my brother bought from our neighbour last Saturday.

- **It was our next-door neighbour that** my brother bought his new car from last Saturday.

Look out for cleft structures in your reading. They are a very common feature of written English.

Quite often in English, certain expressions with a **restrictive or negative** meaning are placed at the beginning of a sentence. The reason for doing so is to **emphasize** the point that you want to make. It is striking, original or surprising in some way. And whenever you make such a statement, inversion is necessary. So, it has to be:

- 'Only at night do bats leave their cave.'
- 'Only after I had returned home did I realize that I had left my watch in Emma's bathroom

Inversion is also used after the **not only ... but also** construction:

- 'Not only did we visit Cuba's capital, Havana, (but) we also spent three days exploring the Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador.'

Inversion is also found in expressions containing the word '**no',** when placed at the beginning of the sentence:

- 'Under no circumstances are you (allowed) to walk home from school alone.'
- 'In no way will I agree to sharing an office with Ben.

The same rule operates for **'seldom', 'hardly', 'scarcely', 'rarely', 'never', 'never before' and 'no sooner':**

- 'Never before had I seen such realistic dinosaurs as there were in the BBC television series.' (This is a reference to a recent BBC series. If you want to know more have a look at the web site - Walking with Dinosaurs.)
- 'No sooner had I arrived at the station than the train came in.'
- 'Rarely do we see such brightly-coloured birds.'
- 'Seldom do we walk on such green grass.'
- 'Scarcely had we finished lunch when the bell rang for afternoon classes.'

Remember, you are registering **surprise**, or something similar, when you do this. If it is inappropriate to be so emphatic, you would say:

- 'We had scarcely finished lunch when the bell rang for afternoon classes.

How to add emphasis to English sentences.

We do it when we want our listeners to understand that we really want them to pay special attention to one element of our sentence and not necessarily the subject. I mention the subject because it is the first element in the English sentence (word order being generally: S + V + O). It has been proved that people listen very attentively at the beginning of a sentence and their attention diminishes towards the end of it. That's why the Passive Voice was introduced in the language as a way of making it possible for an element that should occupy a later position,

according to English rules, to come up to the beginning of an utterance.
We will not be dealing with the Passive Voice in this unit, which will be dealt with in the future. Here we will focus on the **use of auxiliaries for emphasis; fronting; inversions and cleft sentences.**

USE OF AUXILIARIES FOR EMPHASIS:

When we speak we can stress some element in a stronger way, so that the people who listen to us understand that we give special importance to some elements.

Thus, we can stress all **MODAL VERBS:**

*I **can't** do it!*
*You **must** tell me at once!*

In negative and interrogative sentences we use auxiliaries and if we want to emphasize the verb, what we do is to emphasize the auxiliary:

*She **doesn't** live in the area.*
*I **haven't** seen him in the last year.*

When the sentence is affirmative and there are no auxiliaries, what we can do is put the auxiliary and we will manage to transform an ordinary sentence into a new one where there is enough emphasis to draw the attention of our listeners.

I played basketball with them on Sunday. (Neutral sentence with no additional feeling attached to it)

*I **did** play basketball with them on Sunday.* (I insist that I actually did play with them)

FRONTING

The English language gives us more possibilities to add emphasis to our sentences. The next one is called 'fronting' by grammarians and we must know that they give this new resource this name because it consists of taking one element of the sentence and placing it at the beginning, at the ***front*** of the sentence.
We went there.
There we went.

I'll tell you later.
Later I'll tell you.

We also use this after *Such (nouns)* and *So (adjectives)*

Such a wonderful world it is !
So intelligent the student is.

As you can see, the only change that takes place when we are doing fronting is the position of the element that comes to occupy the first place. The order S+V stays the same.

However, in some cases the order S+V changes and becomes V+S, like in questions, and in those cases we have what grammarians call Inversions.

INVERSIONS

When can we make inversions? That is, when can we do fronting + a change in the verb position?

AFTER NEGATIVE OR LIMITING ADVERBIALS:

Never, Rarely, Seldom, Hardly, Little, Scarcely, Such, So...

I have never seen such a beautiful island.
Never have I seen such a beautiful island.

I hardly ever go to church these days.
Hardly ever do I go to church these days.

IN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES:

If we want to make an inversion in a conditional sentence, we have to leave the 'if' out and invert the order of S+V.
If you had seen the film, you would believe me.
Had you seen the film, you would believe me.

I I were in your shoes, I would be scared.
Were I in your shoes, I would be scared.

And finally we come to what is known as **CLEFT SENTENCES** (divided sentences)

This woman told me.

It was this woman who told me.

We take a single clause and we divide it into two.

I just want to know the truth.
What I want is to know the truth.

She only wishes to talk to you.
All she wishes is to talk to you.

NEGATIVE AND LIMITING ADVERBIALS
Source:
http://www.teknolojiweb.net/english-lesson-21-inversion%E2%80%8Fnegative-and-limiting-adverbialstimes-expressions/

Sometimes you can place a negative or limiting adverbial in the front position to create emphasis.
Word order
In this type of sentence, the subject+auxiliary word order is inverted.
I have never seen anything quite so breathtaking
Never have I seen anything quite so breathtaking
The same thing happens with the verb be
It is not only one of the oldest cities on Earth, but also one of the most beautiful
Not only is it one of the oldest cities on Earth, it is also one of the most beautiful
In the present simple and past simple, use do /does or did
We rarely visit that part of town
Rarely do we visit that part of town
Negative adverbials
In formal and literary language in particular, we use negative adverbials at the beginning of a clause. The subject and verb are inverted:
This only occurs when the adverbial is at the beginning of a clause. They're not usual in everyday spoken
Times expressions: Never, rarely, seldom
Seldom do we have goods returned to us because they are faulty, (not Seldom we do…)
These are most commonly used with present perfect , or with modals such as can and could . Sentences of this type often contain comparatives.
Times expressions : Hardly, barely, scarcely, no sooner
These refer to an event wich quickly follows another in the past. They're usually used with past perfect , althought no sooner can be followed by past simple
Hardly had the train left the sation, when there was an explosion
Scarcely had I entered the room when the phone rang
No sooner was the team back on the pitch than it started rainning
These include under no circunstances, no account , at no time, in no way , on no condition , not

until, not only
On no condition are they to open fire without a warning
Not until I got home did I notice that I forgot my keys inside the car
Not a+noun
Not a word did she say to me
Not until +verb phrase
Not until I come back home did I realise how lucky I'd been
Not until +noun phrase
Not until the end did I realise how lucky I'd been
Under no circumstances
Under no circumstances are you to leave before you finish to pay all your debts
On no account
On no account can they claim to the best
Never
Never had I seen such a lovely doll
No sooner… than
No sooner had I arrived that the doorbell rang

Limiting adverbials
Only +by+ing
Only by bribing the police officer was he able to get away
Only +conjuction+verb phrase
Only if he promised to help would she tell him where he had left his keys.
Only when I took the test did I realise how little I knew
After only : Here only combines with other time expressions and is usually used in the past simple
Only after posting the letter did I remember that I had forgotten to put an stamp
Other examples are only if /when, only then, only later
When only refers to "the state of being the only one" there is not inversion following it
Only he realised that the window was opened
after only + a time expression, as in only after, only later, only once, only then, only when:
She bought a newspaper and some sweets at the shop on the corner. Only later did she realise that she'd been given the wrong change.

Only once did / go to the opera in the whole time I was in Italy.
after only + other prepositional phrases beginning only by…, only in…, only with…, etc.:
Mary had to work at evenings and weekends. **Only in this way** was she able to finish all and win more money to go and live abroad.

Little
Little also has a negative or restrictive meaning
Litle does the goverment appreciate what the results will be
Little did they know that we were following them

Little did / then realise the day would come when Michael would be famous.
Little do they know how lucky they are to live in such a wonderful house.
Rarely /seldom
Rarely had I had so much responsability
Seldom has the team given a worse performance
Barely/hardly/scarcely… when
Barely had I arrived when the doorbell rang

Inversion after so/such with that

This occurs with so and adjectives when the main verb is be. It is used for emphasis and is more common than the example with such :
So devasting were the floods that some areas may never recover
Such used with be means so much/ so great
Such was the force of the storm that trees were uprooted
As in the examples with such , inversion only occurs if so /such is the first word in the clause
Her business was so successful that Marie was able to retire at the age of 50. or So successful was her business, that Marie was able to retire at the age of 50.
We can use so + adjective at the beginning of a clause to give special emphasis to the adjective.When we do this, the subject and verb are inverted.
We can use such + be at the beginning of a clause to emphasise the extent or degree of something. The subject and verb are inverted.
Such is the popularity of the play that the theatre is likely to be full every night, or
The play is so popular that the theatre is likely to be full every night.
We invert the subject and verb after neither and nor when these words begin a clause:
For some time after the surgery Elisabeth couldn't walk so well, and neither could she eat all kind of food
The council never wanted the new supermarket to be built, nor did local residents
Inversion after adverbial phrases of direction and place
When we put an adverbial phrase, especially of direction or place, at the beginning of a sentence, we sometimes put an intransitive verb in front of its subject. This kind of inversion is found particularly in formal or literary styles:
With the verb be we always use inversion in sentences like this, and inversion is usual with certain verbs of place and movement, such as climb, come, fly, go, hang, lie, run, sit, stand:
In an armchair sat his mother, (rather than …his mother sat.)
Inversion doesn't usually occur with other verbs. We don't invert subject and verb when the subject is a pronoun. So, for example, we don't say 'In an armchair sat she.'
In speech, inversion often occurs after here and there, and adverbs such as back, down, in, off,up, round, etc.:
Here comes Sandra's car.
Inverted conditonal sentences without if
Three typs of if-sentences can be inverted without if-. This makes the sentences more formal and makes the event less likely.
If they police had found out , I would have been in trouble

were the police to have found out , I would have been in trouble
If you should hear anything , let me know
Should you hear anything , let me know
If I had known, I would have protest strongly
Had I known , I would have protest strongly
Inversion after as:
This is more common in formal or written language
We were short of money as were most people in our neighborhood
Inversion in comparisons with 'as' and 'than'
The coffee was excellent, as was the hot chocolate, (or …as the chocolate was.)
I believed, as did my colleagues, that the plan would work, (or …as my colleagues did…)
We prefer to use inversion after as and than in formal written language.
Notice that we don't invert subject and verb when the subject is a pronoun
Inversion after so, neither and nor:
Inversion after 'so + adjective… that'; 'such + be…that'; 'neither…/nor…'
These are used in statements agreeing or disagreeing
I'm going home: So am I
I don't like meat. Neither do I
Compare these pairs of sentences:
Her business was so successful that Marie was able to retire at the age of 50. or So successful was her business, that Marie was able to retire at the age of 50.
We can use so + adjective at the beginning of a clause to give special emphasis to the adjective.When we do this, the subject and verb are inverted.
We can use such + be at the beginning of a clause to emphasise the extent or degree of something. The subject and verb are inverted.
Such is the popularity of the play that the theatre is likely to be full every night, or
• The play is so popular that the theatre is likely to be full every night.
We invert the subject and verb after neither and nor when these words begin a clause:
• For some time after the explosion Jack couldn't hear, and neither could he see.
• The council never wanted the new supermarket to be built, nor did local residents

Other ways of adding or taking off emphasis

Interjections like mind you

Mind you

mind you	interj	*informal* (although, having said that)	eso sí interj
The meal was fantastic -- expensive, mind			

you!			
He can be very disorganized. Mind you, I'm no better.			
Fue una cena fantástica, eso sí, carísima.			

Mind you is used when you want to make what you have just said sound less strong
He's very untidy about the house; mind you, I'm not much better.
I know I'm lazy - I did go swimming yesterday, mind.

Mind you
a phrase introducing something that should be taken into consideration. He's very well dressed, but mind you, he's got plenty of money to buy clothes. Lisa is unfriendly to me, but mind you, she's never very nice to anyone.

Adverb intensifiers & Intensifiers

Adverb intensifiers can be used to emphasize verbs. These emphatic expressions are used in formal English in written documents and when speaking at formal occasions such as business meetings and giving presentations. Here is a list of some of the most common of these intensifiers.

Intensifiers

categorically - in every manner, without reserve
deeply - strongly, with much feeling
enthusiastically - with great joy
freely - without hesitation
fully - completely, without any doubt
honestly - truly believing
positively - without any doubt
readily - without hesitation
sincerely - with best wishes
strongly - with conviction
totally - without any doubt
utterly - without any doubt

These are generally used with specific verbs to create emphatic expressions. These intensifier + verb combinations are strong collocations. Collocations are words that are always or often used together. Here is a list of the intensifier + verb combinations which make up the emphatic expressions:

Intensifier + Verb Collocations = Emphatic Expression

categorically deny - In no way did I do something.
deeply regret - I am strongly sorry for my actions.
enthusiastically endorse - I happily, and with my whole heart believe in something.

freely appreciate - I certainly understand something.
fully recognize - I am aware of some situation.
honestly believe - I think something is true without any doubt.
positively encourage - I hope that you do something very strongly.
readily endorse - I believe in something someone else does without hesitation.
sincerely hope - I honestly want something for someone else.
strongly recommend - I really think you should do something.
totally reject - I refuse to believe or do in any case.
utterly refuse - I completely do not want to do or believe.
Here are example sentences for each of these emphatic expressions:
We **categorically deny** any involvement in the scandal.
I **deeply regret** the loss of your loved one.
I **enthusiastically endorse** the local cancer society.
We **freely appreciate** the current difficulties in this market.
I **fully recognize** your need to improve your career.
I **honestly believe** he is telling the truth.
We'd like to **positively encourage** you to buy this stock.
Our company **readily endorses** his run for office.
I **sincerely hope** you are able to find employment soon.
I'd like to **strongly recommend** you visit an employment specialist.
They **totally reject** any compromise in these negotiations.
I'm afraid I **utterly refuse** to believe anything he says.

Practice about cleft-sentences:
http://www.eoioviedo.org/mariav/cleft_sentences1.htm

http://www.imparareinglese.co.uk/esercizi_inglese/fronting.html

Source:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnitv342.shtml

Grammar answers from the BBC:

Is it true that **Hadn't it been for?...**(as an alternative to **Had it not been for?...**) is incorrect?

Had it not rained

Yes, it is correct that we cannot use a contracted negative form when we use inverted word order to express unreal or impossible condition in the past. Instead, we are obliged to use the full form of **not**:

Had it not rained last Saturday, we would've celebrated Tom's birthday with a barbecue in the garden.

Had you not refused my invitation, you would've had the best holiday ever.

Of course, had we used the more normal if-clause to express this conditional idea, the contracted negative form would have been the norm:

If only it hadn't rained last Saturday, we would've had a wonderful holiday in the garden.

If you hadn't been so stupid as to refuse my invitation, you could've travelled to see all the wonders of the world.

Note that we use these tense forms to talk about something that might have happened, but didn't:

If it had stayed fine, they would've celebrated the birthday in the garden.

If she had accepted the invitation, she would've seen all the wonders of the world.

Should you not wish to

Note that we can also use the inversion structure with **should** when we are talking about present and future conditions and, again, negative forms are not contracted:

Should you not wish to sign the contract, you must let them know before the end of June.

Should you change your mind about selling the car, I'd be happy to buy it from you.

Note that use of should here has nothing to do with obligation, but is simply an alternative to the present simple in the more normal if-clause:

If you don't want to go ahead and sign the contract, please try to let them know before the end

of this month.

If you (do) change your mind about selling the car, I'd be happy to buy it from you.

Were we to have children

Finally, inversion is possible, though I think less common, with this form of the conditional when we are talking about the improbable future. Again negative forms are not contracted:

Were we to have children, we'd need to move to a bigger house.

Were she not my daughter, I'd have no hesitation in phoning the police.

The more normal if-clause is here quite straightforward:

If we were to have children, we'd certainly need to move to a larger house.

If she weren't my daughter, I'd have no hesitation in phoning the police and telling them about the crime that has been committed.

We use the inversion strategy when we want what we are saying to sound more carefully considered and it is also characteristic of more formal and literary styles.

In your example, Mr Smolin, we can also use the construction **But for...**, meaning **Except for?**, as an alternative to **Had it not been for?** or **Were it not for?**:

Had it not been for his foresight in ensuring everybody had lifejackets, everyone on board would have drowned.

But for his foresight, everyone on board the yacht would have drowned.

Were it not for your kindness, I'd still be living in that tiny bed-sit in the town centre.

But for your kindness, I'd still be stuck in that tiny flat in the town centre.

Never
Not once
Under no circumstances
At no time
Rarely
Only twice

By no means
Barely
Scarcely
Only once in a blue moon
Seldom
Hardly
In no way
On no account
On no condition
Nowhere
No sooner
Not only
Not until
Only if/after/then/when/later
Little
So/ Such
As
Neither/So
In vain
+some conditional sentences (3rd condition)

Source:
http://www.english-test.net/forum/ftopic22903.html

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." ~ Abraham Lincoln

For more obsession about Grammar rules, please feel free to have a look at this excellent grammar forum: http://www.english-test.net/forum/ftopic21823.html

?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1535_questionanswer/page55.shtml

A question from Paul Zaffaroni in Mexico:
Several years ago I heard this dialogue in a movie: "I will never forget you." The other person replied: "nor I you." I have never heard this kind of reply before, but I know it is grammatically correct. Could you please tell me how you would classify it?

Karen Adams answers:
This is a really interesting question. But before we begin I do need to say that it sounds as if Paul has been watching a very old English film, because the phrase “nor I you” isn’t really something you would hear nowadays in British English.

However, the question does give us a very clear example of something which is very common in English. It’s an example of ellipses. Ellipses is missing out what you, the speaker and the listener already know. In Paul’s example, we have “I will never forget you” and “nor I you.”

The person who is answering really means “nor will I ever forget you.”

However, both the listener and the speaker know that this information is shared so they don’t need to say it. You can find much more common examples of ellipses in everyday language, for example, in the sentence: “I drove to work, and then I parked the car in the car park.” You wouldn’t really expect to hear “I” said twice. So normally you would hear “I drove to work and parked in the car park.” We miss out the second “I” because we already know that it’s there.

Similarly, “I listen to the news on the radio and I listened to the drama programme on the radio.” You would normally say “I listened to the news and the drama programme on the radio.” This gives us all of the new information, but it misses out the things which we know already. In this case, “I listened” so “I listened to the news and the drama programme on

the radio."

We can think of lots of other examples if we can think of the example of love and forgetting, you may hear in a film, for example, "I will always love you." And the person who's listening may say "and I you." What they mean is, "and I will always love you." But they don't need to repeat the words which the other speaker has already said.

Ellipses also feature in sentences where we know exactly what the speaker is saying, and they may drop off a final word. So for example: "he is as tall as I am." You may actually hear someone say "he is as tall as I." We don't need the "am" as it doesn't add any new information.

We try to be as economical as possible when we speak, using only the words which will give the listener the information which he or she needs. Therefore, if we're repeating information or adding in extra words which don't give any more information, we tend to drop them out. This is what ellipses are.

One important thing to remember, however, is that sometimes, in our examples, ellipses can sound a little old fashioned. So in our example "he is as tall as I" normally in British English you would hear, these days "he's as tall as me." However, grammatically, "he is as tall as I" is the more correct.

And in Paul's example "I will never forget you"…"nor I you" - this is something you're actually unlikely to hear these days in British English. Probably the person answering would say "me neither." However, grammatically, "nor I you" is the more correct.

Do try to listen out for ellipses in everyday language.