

English Ladder

Teaching Guide

Understanding the Position of "Only" in a Sentence

A concise classroom guide with lesson flow, teaching cues, and a ready-to-use answer key built around the same English Ladder concept sheet.



Grammar Concepts #

Key Points

Additional Examples with Other

Examples with More Wo

Summary

Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in **Understanding the Position of "Only" in a Sentence** and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

ENGLISH LADDER

Concept #18 ► The Position of "Only"

The position of "only" in a sentence is very important to the meaning.

- 1 I **only** reluctantly wrote her a song.
You did not actually want to write her a song.
- 2 I reluctantly **only** wrote her a song.
You also wanted to sing the song, but only wrote it.
- 3 I reluctantly wrote **only** her a song.
You wanted to write songs for more girls.
- 4 I reluctantly wrote her **only** a song.
You wanted to write her a poem also.

The positioning of other words is also important.
These words include "almost", "mostly", and "hardly".

englishladder.com



At a Glance

<p>Lesson focus Understanding the Position of "Only" in a Sentence</p>	<p>Suggested timing 45-60 minutes</p>
<p>Core objective Students explain the target pattern clearly and apply it accurately in controlled practice and discussion.</p>	<p>Materials Student PDF, the concept image, board space, and time for partner checking.</p>

Suggested Lesson Flow

Warm-up	Display the concept image and ask learners to predict the rule behind Understanding the Position of "Only" in a Sentence before reading the explanation.
Model	Walk through the Core Idea and the sections on Key Points, Additional Examples with Other Words, Examples with More Words. Pause after each part so students can restate the pattern in plain English.
Guided practice	Project two or three examples from the concept sheet and ask pairs to explain why each choice works, not just what the answer is.
Independent work	Assign the 24 practice items for quiet work, partner checking, and final feedback.
Closure	Ask students to create one new sentence or mini-example of their own that follows the same pattern.



Likely Learner Errors

- Learners may overgeneralize the first pattern they notice. Keep returning to **Key Points, Additional Examples with Other Words, Examples with More Words** and ask students to explain what changes from one example to the next.
- Long explanations can hide the signal word or structure. Have students underline the exact phrase that tells them which form, pattern, or response is needed.
- If students can choose an answer but cannot explain it, ask them to justify their choice using words taken directly from the concept sheet.

Differentiation and Delivery Notes

- Support: teach one section at a time, then send students back to **the examples** or the practice set so they can apply the same rule immediately.
- Pair work: let students compare answers aloud before you reveal the key. The explanation step is as important as the final answer.
- Extension: ask stronger students to write two fresh examples or a short dialogue that uses the same target language accurately.

Model Language from the Concept Sheet

- I only reluctantly wrote her a song....
- I reluctantly only wrote her a song....
- I reluctantly wrote only her a song....
- I reluctantly wrote her only a song....
- Even John passed the exam. Meaning: John, who was not expected to pass, did pass. Explanation: "Even" emphasizes the surprising fact that John passed.
- John even passed the exam....



Answer Key

Use this key for whole-class feedback or fast marking.

ITEM 01

I only reluctantly wrote her a song. It implies that you did not actually want to write her a song.

ITEM 02

I reluctantly only wrote her a song. It implies that you wanted to sing the song as well, but you only wrote it.

ITEM 03

I reluctantly wrote only her a song. It implies that you wanted to write songs for more girls, but you wrote a song only for her.

ITEM 04

I reluctantly wrote her only a song. It implies that you wanted to write her more than just a song, like a poem, but you wrote just a song.

ITEM 05

Even John passed the exam. It implies that John, who was not expected to pass, did pass.

ITEM 06

John even passed the exam. It implies that in addition to other accomplishments, John also passed the exam.

ITEM 07

Just call me when you arrive. It implies that calling is the only action required upon arrival.

ITEM 08

Call me just when you arrive. It implies that the timing is critical; the call should be made immediately upon arrival.

ITEM 09

Actually, I don't agree. It implies that you are correcting a previous assumption or statement.

ITEM 10

I actually don't agree. It emphasizes your genuine disagreement.

ITEM 11

Almost everyone enjoyed the party. It implies that most people enjoyed the party, but a few did not.

**ITEM 12**

Everyone almost enjoyed the party. It implies that everyone was close to enjoying the party, but something was missing.

ITEM 13

She mostly eats vegetables. It implies that she eats vegetables for the most part, but not exclusively.

ITEM 14

Mostly, she eats vegetables. It implies that the majority of her diet consists of vegetables.

ITEM 15

I only reluctantly signed the document. It implies that you did not actually want to sign the document.

ITEM 16

I reluctantly only signed the document. It implies that you wanted to do more than sign the document, but you only signed it.

ITEM 17

I reluctantly signed only the document. It implies that you wanted to sign other things as well, but you signed only the document.

ITEM 18

I reluctantly signed the document only. It implies that signing the document was the only action you took.

ITEM 19

Even Sarah completed the project. It implies that Sarah, who was not expected to complete the project, did complete it.

ITEM 20

Sarah even completed the project. It implies that in addition to other accomplishments, Sarah also completed the project.

ITEM 21

Just tell me the truth. It implies that telling the truth is the only action required.

ITEM 22

Tell me just when you are ready. It implies that the timing is critical; you should tell me immediately when you are ready.

ITEM 23

Actually, he didn't mean it. It implies that you are correcting a previous assumption or statement about his intentions.

**ITEM 24**

He actually didn't mean it. It emphasizes that he genuinely did not intend what was implied.