NPI Squish

Below are 42 sentences constructed using the 6 negative triggers \textit{whether, would rather, seldom, not, too, and only}, and the 7 negative polarity items \textit{any more, ever, in weeks, take long, at all, yet, and until} (w/ punctual verb). Not all are grammatical; is there any pattern?

\textbf{HINT:} Try using a 6-by-7 grid. Maximum 1 page.

1) He’s seldom ever eaten a mango.
2) *He would rather listen to Bach than The Beatles any more.
3) *Only Bill thinks it’ll take long.
4) He hasn’t slept at all.
5) *We want to find out whether they arrived until noon.
6) *He’d rather watch TV than finish it yet.
7) *He’s seldom been here in weeks.
8) He’s been too nervous to sleep at all.
9) He has not ever eaten a mango.
10) He seldom sleeps during the day at all.
11) Only Bill has ever eaten a mango.
12) We have to find out whether they’ve finished yet.
13) ?He would rather pace the room than sleep at all.
14) It seldom takes long.
15) They didn’t arrive until noon.
16) I need to know whether he has slept at all.
17) *Only Bill arrived until noon.
18) Tell me whether he’s ever eaten a mango.
19) ?Only Bill got to sleep at all.
20) Bill doesn’t buy his suits there any more.
21) *Only Bill has been home in weeks.
22) They haven’t finished the paper yet.
23) *He’s been too angry to see her in weeks.
24) He would rather go hungry than ever eat a mango.
25) He is seldom finished yet at this time of day.
26) He’s too picky to ever eat a mango.
27) *They would rather be late than arrive until noon.
28) He’s too lazy to have finished yet.
29) He hasn’t been home in weeks.
30) *We have to find out whether he’s been home in weeks.
31) ?Only Bill has finished yet.
32) He seldom buys his suits here any more.
33) He’s too poor to buy his suits there any more.
34) We have to find out whether he buy his suits there any more.
35) ?Only Bill buys his suits there any more.
36) This procedure won’t take long to do.
37) It’s too simple to take long.
38) We need to know whether it will take long.
39) *He would rather forget about it than take long.
40) He seldom arrives until noon.
41) ?He’s too slow to arrive until noon.
42) *She would rather flunk than study in weeks.