

Unit 112

even

A Study this example situation:

Tina loves watching TV.

She has a television in every room of the house, **even the bathroom**.

We use **even** to say that something is unusual or surprising. It is not usual to have a television in the bathroom.



Some more examples:

- ☐ These pictures are really awful. **Even I** take better pictures than these. (and I'm certainly not a good photographer)
- ☐ He always wears a coat, **even in hot weather**.
- ☐ The print was very small. I couldn't read it, **even with glasses**.
- ☐ Nobody would help her, **not even her best friend**. or **Not even** her best friend would help her.

B You can use **even** with the verb in the middle of a sentence (see Unit 110):

- ☐ Laura has travelled all over the world. She's **even** been to the Antarctic.
- ☐ They are very rich. They **even** have their own private jet.

You can use **even** with a negative (**not even**, **can't even**, **don't even** etc.):

- ☐ I can't cook. I **can't even** boil an egg. (and boiling an egg is very easy)
- ☐ They weren't very friendly to us. They **didn't even** say hello.
- ☐ Jessica is very fit. She's been running quite fast and she's **not even** out of breath.

C You can use **even** + *comparative* (**cheaper** / **more expensive** etc.):

- ☐ I got up very early, but Jack got up **even earlier**.
- ☐ I knew I didn't have much money, but I have **even less** than I thought.
- ☐ We were very surprised to get an email from her. We were **even more surprised** when she came to see us a few days later.

D **even though** / **even when** / **even if**

We use **even though** / **even when** / **even if** + *subject* + *verb*:

- ☐ **Even though** Tina can't drive, she has a car.
subject + verb
- ☐ He never shouts, **even when he's** angry.
- ☐ This river is dangerous. It's dangerous to swim in it, **even if you're** a strong swimmer.

We do not use **even** + *subject* + *verb*. We say:

- ☐ **Even though she can't** drive, she has a car. (*not even she can't drive*)
- ☐ I can't reach the shelf **even if I stand** on a chair. (*not even I stand*)

Compare **even if** and **even** (without **if**):

- ☐ It's dangerous to swim here **even if you're** a strong swimmer. (*not even you are*)
- ☐ The river is dangerous, **even for strong swimmers**.

Compare **even if** and **if**:

- ☐ We're going to the beach tomorrow. It doesn't matter what the weather is like. We're going **even if** the weather is bad.
- ☐ We want to go to the beach tomorrow, but we won't go **if** the weather is bad.

Exercises

112.1 Amy, Kate and Lisa are three friends who went on holiday together. Use the information given about them to complete the sentences using **even** or **not even**.

AMY

is usually happy
is usually on time
likes to get up early
is very interested in art



KATE

isn't very keen on art
is usually miserable
usually hates hotels
doesn't use her camera much



LISA

is almost always late
is a keen photographer
loves staying in hotels
isn't very good at getting up



- They stayed at a hotel. Everybody liked it, even Kate.
- They arranged to meet. They all arrived on time,
- They went to an art gallery. Nobody enjoyed it,
- Yesterday they had to get up early. They all managed to do this,
- They were together yesterday. They were all in a good mood,
- None of them took any pictures,

112.2 Make sentences with **even**. Use the words in brackets.

- Laura has been all over the world. (the Antarctic) She has even been to the Antarctic.
- We painted the whole room. (the floor) We
- Rachel has met lots of famous people. (the prime minister)
She
- You could hear the noise from a long way away. (from the next street)
You

Now make sentences with a negative + **even** (**didn't even**, **can't even** etc.).

- They didn't say anything to us. (hello) They didn't even say hello.
- I can't remember anything about her. (her name)
I
- There isn't anything to do in this town. (a cinema)
.....
- He didn't tell anybody where he was going. (his wife)
.....
- I don't know anyone in our street. (my neighbours)
.....

112.3 Complete the sentences using **even** + comparative.

- It was very hot yesterday, but today it's even hotter.
- The church is 700 years old, but the house next to it is
- That's a very good idea, but I've got an one.
- The first question was very difficult to answer. The second one was
- I did very badly in the exam, but most of my friends did
- Neither of us was hungry. I ate very little and my friend ate

112.4 Complete the sentences. Choose from: **if** **even** **even if** **even though**

- Even though she can't drive, she has a car.
- The bus leaves in five minutes, but we can still catch it we run.
- The bus leaves in two minutes. We won't catch it now we run.
- Mark's Spanish isn't very good, after three years in Spain.
- Mark's Spanish isn't very good, he lived in Spain for three years.
- with the heating on, it was cold in the house.
- I couldn't sleep I was very tired.
- I won't forgive them for what they did, they apologise.
- I hadn't eaten anything for 24 hours, I wasn't hungry.