

”Even If” Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

..... , — “even if”

... grants a **hypothetical** and says it **changes nothing** — “even if ..., still ...” (One of a family with , , .) Use it for a supposition, not an actual fact — for an actual present fact, use .

Structure: + Hypothetical , + Action

{zh: |jiù shì|even if / |zhè tái|this / |diàn nǎo|computer / |jià gé|costs / |shàng wàn|over 10,000 / , |wǒ|I / |yě|still / |huì|will / |mǎi|buy it / . }

Even if this computer costs over ten thousand, I’ll still buy it.

{zh: |jiù shì|even if / |tā|he / |biàn chéng|became / |qióng guāng dàn|penniless / , |wǒ|I / |yě|still / |yuàn yì|would want / |gēn|to be with / |tā|him / |zài yì qǐ / . }

Even if he were penniless, I’d still want to be with him.

Remember: ... = “even if ... still” — a hypothetical, in the same family as / , all needing the . A real, present fact takes , not .

Watch out

- This is “even if,” not “is exactly” — the downstream confirms the “even if” reading.

..... , — “even if (granting)”

... is a colloquial “even if / even supposing” — often when the speaker **doubts** the hypothetical, or brushes it aside. ... ? = “even if ..., so what?”; + Adj + = “no matter how Adj.”

Structure: + Hypothetical , + Result . + + Adj , ...

{zh: |jiù suàn|even if / |nǐ|you / |bù xiǎng|don’t want to / |tīng|hear it / , |wǒ|I / |yě|still / |yào|will / |shuō|say it / . }

Even if you don’t want to hear it, I’m saying it.

{zh: |jiù suàn|even if / |tā|he / |lái|came / |le / |yòu / |zěn me yàng|so what / ? }

Even if he did come — so what?

Remember: = “even supposing” — with a shrug of doubt or dismissal. ... ? = “even if so, *so what?*”; ... = “no matter how expensive...”. The colloquial cousin of .

Watch out

- It often dismisses the hypothetical as not mattering — a slightly more “so what” tone than .

..... , — “even if (the extreme)”

... ... grants even the **most serious or extreme** case — “even if ..., still ...”
Its tone is **stronger** than / . + Adj + = “no matter how Adj.”

Structure: + Extreme Hypothetical , + Result

{zh: |nǎ pà|even if / |tā|his / |bà ba|father / |shì|were / |zǒng
tǒng|president / , |wǒ|I / |yě|still / |bù|wouldn't / |jià gěi|marry /
|tā|him / ! }

Even if his father were president, I wouldn't marry him!

{zh: |nǎ pà|no matter how / |zài / |lèi|tired / , |tā|she / |yě|still /
|yào|wants to / |jiàn shēn|work out / 。 }

However tired she is, she still works out.

Remember: = the **STRONGEST** “even if” — it reaches for the most extreme or far-fetched case (... ...). Lit. “what's there to fear” → “even granting the worst.” + Adj + = “no matter how Adj.”

Watch out

- The three “even if”s scale up: (neutral) → (casual, doubtful) → (extreme).