

Let alone

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

..... , / — “let alone, never mind”

A, / B ... waves away the **bigger** case to stress that even the **smaller** one fails — “forget about A; even B” Note the order is the **reverse** of the pattern.

Structure: + A , / + B + / + Verb

{zh: |bié shuō|forget / |yì bǎi|a hundred / , |jiù shì|even / |yí kuài|one / |qián|kuai / |wǒ|I / |yě / |bù|won’t / |gěi|give / |nǐ|you / 。 }

Forget a hundred — I won’t even give you one kuai.

{zh: |bié shuō|never mind / |bái jiǔ|baijiu / , |lián|even / |pí jiǔ|beer / |wǒ|I / |dōu / |shòu bu liǎo|can’t stand / 。 }

Never mind baijiu — I can’t even stand beer.

Remember: = “forget the big thing — even the small one fails.” Dismiss the *bigger* case A first (), then show even the *smaller* B doesn’t hold (). Big → small. The exact reverse of (next).

Watch out

- Order matters: the *easier/smaller* case is what actually fails, proving the point about the bigger one.

..... , — “let alone, much less”

A ..., B runs from the **smaller** case up to the **greater** — “even A ..., let alone B.” A (the lesser) comes first; B (the more extreme) is capped with .

Structure: + A + / + Verb , + B +

{zh: |lián|even / |wǒ|I / |dōu / |bù|don’t / |zhī dào|know / |zhè ge|this / |gē shǒu|singer / , |gèng bú yòng shuō|let alone / |tā|him / |le / 。 }

Even I don’t know this singer, let alone him.

{zh: |lián|even / |jiā rén|family / |dōu / |bù|don’t / |lǐ jiě|understand / |nǐ|you / , |gèng bú yòng shuō|let alone / |bié rén|others / |le / 。 }

Even your family don’t understand you, let alone other people.

Remember: = “even A..., LET ALONE B.” Lesser case A first (), greater B capped with (). Small → big — the **opposite** order to (big → small). Both make the same point from different ends.

Watch out

- Pair it with a leading A ... — the “even the small case” half sets up the “let alone” punch.