

Let alone

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

..... () , — “even ..., let alone ...”

means “let alone, much less, all the more so.” It pairs with a ... () ... clause: first you state an extreme case (even A is true), then pushes to a case that’s all the more so (so of course B). It’s often a **rhetorical** question, closed with ; adding / before sharpens it.

Structure: Subject + + A + () + Verb , () + B + ?

{zh: |lián|even / |dà rén|adults / |dōu / |jué de|find it / |nán|hard / , |hé kuàng|let alone / |hái zi|children / |ne / ? }

Even adults find it hard, let alone children.

{zh: |zhè|this / |diǎn|bit of / |qián|money / |lián|even / |chī fàn|for food / |dōu / |bú gòu|isn’t enough / |hé kuàng|let alone / |mǎi|buying / |fáng|a house / ? }

This bit of money isn’t even enough for food, let alone buying a house.

Remember: A ..., () B ? = “even A..., LET ALONE B!” — it climbs from a strong case to an even stronger one (= “how much more so”). Usually rhetorical, sealed with ; / before add punch.

Watch out

- It runs *small* → *big* (like): A the lesser case, B the greater — don’t flip them.