

Let alone

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

连 都 (也) , 何况 — “even ..., let alone ...”

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

Structure: Subject + 连 + A + 都 (也) + Verb , (更) 何况 + B + 呢?

{zh: 连 |lián|even / 大人 |dà rén|adults / 都 |dōu / 觉得 |jué de|find it / 难 |nán|hard / , 何况 |hé kuàng|let alone / 孩子 |hái zi|children / 呢 |ne / ? }

Even adults find it hard, let alone children.

{zh: 这 |zhè|this / 点 |diǎn|bit of / 钱 |qián|money / 连 |lián|even / 吃饭 |chī fàn|for food / 都 |dōu / 不够 |bú gòu|isn’t enough / , 何况 |hé kuàng|let alone / 买 |mǎi|buying / 房 |fáng|a house / ? }

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

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

Watch out

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