

# Let alone

## HSK 5 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

### 别说 ... , 就是 ... 也 ... (let alone)

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#### ■ Use the stronger candidate to support the weaker inference

- A puzzle defeats even adults, so children are unlikely to solve it.
- **别说孩子，就是大人也不会。** – Failure by the normally more capable group supports the claim about children.

#### ■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **别说 ... , 就是 ... 也 ... (let alone)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

**别说孩子，就是大人也不会。**

*bié shuō hái zǐ jiù shì dà rén yě bú huì*

Word guide: 别说 – let alone; 孩子 – children; 就是 – even; 大人 – adults; 也 – also; 不会 – can't.

#### ■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, **别说孩子，就是大人也不会。**: Failure by the normally more capable group supports the claim about children.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

#### ■ Know the boundary

- The relevant ability scale must come from the context.
- In this example, adults are not the harder task; they are the stronger candidates attempting the same task.

#### ■ Use the distinction

- Failure by the normally more capable group supports the claim about children.
- The relevant ability scale must come from the context. In this example, adults are not the harder task; they are the stronger candidates attempting the same task.

### ■ Try it with help closed

A puzzle defeats even adults, so children are unlikely to solve it. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

**One possible response:** 别说孩子，就是大人也不会。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The relevant ability scale must come from the context.
- In this example, adults are not the harder task; they are the stronger candidates attempting the same task.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

## 更不用说 (let alone / not to mention)

### ■ Follow the scale in a let-alone argument

- Someone finds even walking difficult, making running less feasible.
- 他连走路都难，更不用说跑步。 – Running is presented as still less feasible than walking here.

### ■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **更不用说 (let alone / not to mention)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

他连走路都难，更不用说跑步。

*tā lián zǒu lù dōu nán gèng bú yòng shuō pǎo bù*

Word guide: 他 – he; 连 – even; 走路 – walk; 都 – even; 难 – hard; 更不用说 – let alone; 跑步 – run.

### ■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他连走路都难，更不用说跑步。: Running is presented as still less feasible than walking here.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

### ■ Know the boundary

- 更不用说 can also support a positive inference, as when knowing a difficult text implies knowing an easier one.
- Follow the actual scale and polarity instead of always labelling the final item harder.

### ■ Use the distinction

- Running is presented as still less feasible than walking here.
- 更不用说 can also support a positive inference, as when knowing a difficult text implies knowing an easier one. Follow the actual scale and polarity instead of always labelling the final item harder.

### ■ Try it with help closed

Someone finds even walking difficult, making running less feasible. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

**One possible response:** 他连走路都难，更不用说跑步。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 更不用说 can also support a positive inference, as when knowing a difficult text implies knowing an easier one.
- Follow the actual scale and polarity instead of always labelling the final item harder.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.