

Let alone

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

别说 , 就是 / 连 也 — “let alone, never mind”

别说 A, 就是 / 连 B 也 ... 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 更不用说 pattern.

Structure: 别说 + A , 就是 / 连 + B + 也 / 都 + Verb

{zh: 别说 |bié shuō|forget / 一百 |yì bǎi|a hundred / , 就是 |jiù shì|even / 一块 |yí kuài|one / 钱 |qián|kuai / 我 |wǒ|I / 也 |yě / 不 |bù|won't / 给 |gěi|give / 你 |nǐ|you / 。 }

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

{zh: 别说 |bié shuō|never mind / 白酒 |bái jiǔ|baijiu / , 连 |lián|even / 啤酒 |pí jiǔ|beer / 我 |wǒ|I / 都 |dōu / 受不了 |shòu bu liǎo|can't stand / 。 }

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

Remember: 别说 = “forget the big thing — even the small one fails.” Dismiss the *bigger* case A first (别说一百), then show even the *smaller* B doesn't hold (连一块也不给). Big → small. The exact reverse of 更不用说 (next).

Watch out

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

..... , 更不用说 — “let alone, much less”

连 A 都 ..., 更不用说 B 了 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 了.

Structure: 连 + A + 都 / 也 + Verb , 更不用说 + B + 了

{zh: 连 |lián|even / 我 |wǒ|I / 都 |dōu / 不 |bù|don't / 知道 |zhī dào|know / 这个 |zhè ge|this / 歌手 |gē shǒu|singer / , 更不用说 |gèng bú yòng shuō|let alone / 他 |tā|him / 了 |le / 。 }

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

{zh: 连 |lián|even / 家人 |jiā rén|family / 都 |dōu / 不 |bù|don't / 理解 |lǐ jiě|understand / 你 |nǐ|you / , 更不用说 |gèng bú yòng shuō|let alone / 别人 |bié rén|others / 了 |le / 。 }

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

Remember: 更不用说 = “even A..., LET ALONE B.” Lesser case A first (连我都不知道), greater B capped with 了 (更不用说他了). Small → big — the **opposite** order to 别说 (big → small). Both make the same point from different ends.

Watch out

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