

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)

■ 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.