

Unit 110

Even

a Study this example:

Our football team lost yesterday. We all played badly. Bill is our best player but yesterday **even Bill** played badly.

We use **even** to say that something is unusual or surprising. We say **even Bill** ... because he is a good player and it is unusual for him to play badly. If he played badly, it must have been a bad day for the team.

- These photographs aren't very good. **Even I** could take better photographs than these. (I'm certainly not a good photographer, so they must be bad.)
- It's very rich country. **Even the poorest people** own cars. (so the rich people must be very rich)
- He always wears a coat - **even in summer**.
- Nobody would lend him the money - **not even his best friend**. (or **Even his best friend** wouldn't lend him the money.)

b Very often we use **even** with the verb in the middle of a sentence (see **Unit 106b** for the exact position):

- Don has travelled all over the world. He has **even** been to the Antarctic. (It's especially unusual to go the Antarctic, so he must have travelled a lot.)
- He always wears a tie. He **even** wears a tie in bed!
- They are very rich. They **even** have their own private jet.

Here are some examples with **not even**:

- I can't cook. I **can't even** boil an egg. (so I certainly can't cook, because boiling an egg is very simple)
- They weren't very friendly to us. They **didn't even** say hello.
- He's very fit. He's just run five miles and he's **not even** out of breath.

c You can use **even** with *comparatives* (**hotter** / **more surprised** etc.):

- It was very hot yesterday but today it's **even hotter**.
- I got up at 6 o'clock but Jack got up **even earlier**.
- I knew I didn't have much money but I've got **even less** than I thought.
- I was surprised to get a letter from her. I was **even more surprised** when she appeared at my door the next day.

d You can use **even** with **if**, **when** and **though**:

- I'll probably see you tomorrow. But **even if** I don't, we're sure to see each other before the week-end.
- He never shouts **even when** he's angry. (you expect people to shout when they are angry)
- He has bought a car **even though** he can't drive.

For **if** and **when** see **Unit 9d**. For **even though** see **Unit 109**.

- They are very rich. They **even** have their own private jet.

