Even

Study this example situation:

Tina loves watching television.

She has a TV set in every room of the house – even the bathroom.

We use even to say that something is unusual or surprising. It is not usual to have a TV set in the bathroom.

Some more examples:

- These photographs are really awful. Even I take better photographs than these.
  (and I'm certainly not a good photographer)
- He always wears a coat – even in hot weather.
- Nobody would help her – not even her best friend.

or

- Not even her best friend would help her.

Very often we use even with the verb in the middle of a sentence (see Unit 110):

- Sue has travelled all over the world. She has even been to the Antarctic.
  (It's especially unusual to go to the Antarctic, so she must have travelled a lot.)
- They are very rich. They even have their own private jet.

Study these examples with not even:

- I can't cook. I can't even boil an egg. (and boiling an egg is very easy)
- They weren't very friendly to us. They didn't even say hello.
- Jenny is very fit. She's just run five miles and she's not even out of breath.

You can use even + comparative (cheaper / more expensive etc.):

- I got up very early, but Jack got up even earlier.
- I knew I didn't have much money, but I've got even less than I thought.
- We were surprised to get a letter from her. We were even more surprised when she came to see us a few days later.

Even though / even when / even if

You can use even though / even when / even if + subject + verb:

- Even though she can't drive, she has bought a car.

- He never shouts, even when he's angry.
- I'll probably see you tomorrow, but even if I don't see you tomorrow, we're sure to see each other before the weekend.

You cannot use even in this way (+ subject + verb). We say:

- Even though she can't drive, she has bought a car. (not Even she can't drive)
- I can't reach the shelf even if I stand on a chair. (not even I stand)

Compare even if and if:

- We're going to the beach tomorrow. It doesn't matter what the weather is like.
  We're going even if it's raining.
- We want to go to the beach tomorrow, but we won't go if it's raining.