

Here is Audio Word Study #028 from Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com

EVEN (part 2)

In my last DailyStep audio blog, I explained the difference between EVEN THOUGH and EVEN SO. Many of you have emailed me since then, asking me to explain the meaning of this confusing little word, EVEN. So in this study, we will take a look at the most usual uses of EVEN, and then at 2 more commonly confused expressions.

Even (adverb)

Meaning: We use EVEN in order to show that something is surprising, unusual, unexpected, or extreme.

Examples: 1. I was working so hard this morning on my English lessons for DailyStep.com that I did not even have time for a coffee break.

2. My friend Helen is on a diet because she wants to lose weight. She will not even eat one biscuit or cake! (*note: in this sentence, I find it surprising that she will not eat such a small amount as one biscuit or cake.*)

3. They won the lottery over fifteen years ago, and even now they can't believe how lucky they were to win it. (*note: this means that it is surprising that they still can't believe how lucky they were.*)

4. I gave my sister clear directions on how to get to the house, but even then she got lost and was several hours late for dinner. (*note: this means I am surprised that my sister got lost, because I gave her clear directions.*)

EVEN IF

Meaning: EVEN IF means 'whether or not'. It is not the same as IF.

Examples: Even if you run fast, you'll still miss the bus. (*note: this means 'It doesn't matter whether you run fast or not, you will still miss the bus'.*)

What is the difference between EVEN IF and IF?

Compare these 2 sentences:

My brother will not be able to come to the party even if you change the date to next weekend, because he'll be in America. (*note: this means 'It doesn't matter whether or not you change the date of your party to next weekend. My brother still won't be able to come to the party.'*)

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My brother will not be able to come to the party if you change the date to next weekend, because he'll be in America. (*note: this means 'My brother will be able to come to the party if you do not change the date to next weekend. But if you change it to next weekend, he will not be able to come because he'll be in America.'*)

So, be careful to use the correct expression! Many English learners think that using EVEN IF is the same thing as emphasising IF. But, as I now hope you understand, these expressions have very different meanings!

That's all for today's word study! I will teach you some more ways to use EVEN in a future audio blog!

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