

In writing, **even** is normally placed immediately before the word or phrase that it refers to. This helps to avoid possible confusion. 'Her parents **even** say that she is lazy' could mean that her parents do not just 'think' that she is lazy – they actually 'say' so.

3

- × They **even** may decide to come by car.
- × Several of the guests **even** did not say goodbye.
- × He **even** is too shy to answer the telephone.

- ✓ They may **even** decide to come by car.
- ✓ Several of the guest did not **even** say goodbye.
- ✓ He is **even** too shy to answer the telephone.

⇒ 29.1–2

even if

268

1

- × Even if you are married or single, you will receive a warm welcome.

- ✓ Whether you are married or single, you will receive a warm welcome.

To link two possibilities, we use **whether ... or ...**: 'Whether she is right **or** wrong, at least she has an opinion.' 'I am not interested in buying the car, **whether** he reduces the price **or** not.'

2

- × Even if he is only 12, he is very trustworthy.

- ✓ Even though he is only 12, he is very trustworthy.

Before a fact, we use **even though**: 'Even though it's pouring with rain, I still have to go out.' We use **even if** before a possibility: 'Even if it pours with rain, I still have to go out.'

3

- × Even if I could afford my own house, but I wouldn't buy one.

- ✓ Even if I could afford my own house, I wouldn't buy one.

We do not use **even if** and **but** together in the same sentence. To link two clauses, we use just one conjunction (NOT two). ⇒ 169.2

even though

269

1

- × Even though he had very little money, but he offered to pay for me.

- ✓ Even though he had very little money, he offered to pay for me.
- ✓ He had very little money, but he offered to pay for me.

We do not use **even though** and **but** together in the same sentence. To link two clauses, we use just one conjunction (NOT two). ⇒ 169.2

2

× Even though Japan has a lot of imports, it can still compete with other countries.

✓ Even though Japan has a lot of imports, it can still compete with other countries.

Even though is written as two words.

⇒ 883.1

ever

270

1

× She asked me if I ever had been to France.

✓ She asked me if I had ever been to France.

⇒ 29.1

2

× It was the best wine that I had ever tasted before.

✓ It was the best wine that I had ever tasted.

We do not use **before** after **ever**.

3

× The Beatles will ever be my favourite pop group.

✓ The Beatles will always be my favourite pop group.

Ever (at any time) is used mainly in questions. Compare: 'I have **always** wanted to visit France.' 'Have you **ever** wanted to visit France?'

every

271

1

× There is a flight to Bahrain every Mondays.

✓ There is a flight to Bahrain every Monday.

× Every children need love and attention.

✓ Every child needs love and attention.

When a noun comes immediately after **every**, it is always singular.

⇒ 640.4

The noun is plural only when **every** is followed by a number: 'I visit the dentist **every six months**.'

2

× Every student have a chance to take the examination again.

✓ Every student has a chance to take the examination again.

× Every one of the answers were wrong.

✓ Every one of the answers was wrong.

After **every**, the verb is always singular.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3 | × I usually visit my parents about three times every week. | ✓ I usually visit my parents about three times a week. |
|---|--|--|

When we are talking about frequency, price, speed, salary, etc., we normally use **a/an**:

The airline flies to London five times **a** week.

Imported apples usually cost about five dollars **a** kilo.

The car was travelling at 60 miles **an** hour.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | × Every one of the lessons was not interesting. | ✓ Not one of the lessons was interesting. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 512.6

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | × Nowadays every one agrees that cigarettes are bad for you.
× Every thing went according to plan. | ✓ Nowadays everyone agrees that cigarettes are bad for you.
✓ Everything went according to plan. |
|---|---|---|

The pronouns **everyone**, **everybody** and **everything** are written as one word.

⇒ 883.3

everybody/everyone

272

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | × It was our first visit to Paris and everybody were impressed. | ✓ It was our first visit to Paris and everybody was impressed. |
|---|---|--|

Everybody and **everyone** take a singular verb.

⇒ 44.11

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | ! Everyone has to leave their bags outside the library. | ✓ All bags have to be left outside the library. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 42.4

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | × Everybody couldn't understand what he was saying. | ✓ Nobody could understand what he was saying. |
|---|---|---|

⇒ 512.6

everyday or every day ?

273

- | | |
|---|--|
| × Everyday my mother made me practise for an hour. | ✓ Every day my mother made me practise for an hour. |
|---|--|

Everyday (written as one word) is an adjective: 'In the tropics, thunderstorms are an **everyday** occurrence.' The adverbial expression is **every day** (two words).

everyone or every one ?

274

× **Everyone** of the letters had been opened by someone.

✓ Every one of the letters had been opened by someone.

Everyone and **everybody** are pronouns: '**Everyone** needs a holiday now and again.' When we mean 'each', we use **every one** (two separate words). ➞ 883.3

everything

275

1 × In a hospital **everything** have to be very clean.

✓ In a hospital everything has to be very clean.

Everything takes a singular verb.

➞ 44.11

2 × **Everything** had not been changed since my last visit.

✓ Nothing had been changed since my last visit.

➞ 512.6

evidence

276

1 × The research produced **evidences** that monolinguals perform better.

✓ The research produced evidence that monolinguals perform better.

Evidence is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

2 × His lawyer produced an important new **evidence**.

× His lawyer produce some important new evidence.

Evidence is not used with **a/an**. We can say **a piece of evidence** but NOT **an evidence**.

➞ 2.1-2

except

277

1 × My parents would not let me go out **except if** my brother went with me.

✓ My parents would not let me go out unless my brother went with me.

When we want to say **except if**, we use **unless**. Note the alternative with **only if**. 'My parents would let me go out **only if** my brother went with me.'

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|--|--|
| <p>2</p> <p>! I am allowed to do anything except to go out on my own at night.</p> | <p>✓ I am allowed to do anything except go out on my own at night.</p> |
|--|--|

When **except** links two clauses, the second clause usually begins with a bare infinitive: 'I've done everything **except feed** the cat.'

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>3</p> <p>× She was unhurt except a slight injury to her knee.</p> <p>× Except sausages, he doesn't eat meat.</p> | <p>✓ She was unhurt except for a slight injury to her knee.</p> <p>✓ Except for sausages, he doesn't eat meat.</p> |
|---|--|

We use **except** when the meaning is 'but not':

Everyone **except** Henry wants to go.
 He eats everything **except** strawberries.
 I saw him every day **except** on Sundays.

Otherwise, we use **except for**.

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| <p>4</p> <p>× There was no sound and except this the picture was very poor.</p> <p>× Except the records, I have a lot of good tapes.</p> | <p>✓ There was no sound and besides this the picture was very poor.</p> <p>✓ Apart from the records, I have a lot of good tapes.</p> |
|--|--|

Prepositions which mean 'also' include **besides**, **in addition to**, **as well as** and **apart from**, but not **except**.

exciting

278

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>× I felt so exciting that I couldn't sleep.</p> | <p>✓ I felt so excited that I couldn't sleep.</p> |
|--|---|

⇒ 14.3

experience

279

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>× For most good jobs you need qualifications and experiences.</p> | <p>✓ For most good jobs you need qualifications and experience.</p> |
|--|---|

When **experience** means 'the knowledge and skill that someone gains from doing a job for a long time', it is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form. Compare: 'He told us about his **experiences** in the desert.'

explain

280

1

- × The old lady explained us that the bag was full of cheese.
- × First, I would like to explain you the travel arrangements.

- ✓ The old lady explained (to us) that the bag was full of cheese.
- ✓ First, I would like to explain (to you) the travel arrangements.

With **explain**, we use **to** before an indirect object, even when the indirect object comes before the direct object. ➡ 387.1

Note, however, that an indirect object is often unnecessary: 'She **explained** that we would have to obtain a visa.' We do not have to say 'She **explained to us** ...'.

2

- × She tried to explain about why she was crying.

- ✓ She tried to explain why she was crying.

We **explain** something (NOT **about** something).

explanation

281

- × He started his talk with an explanation on the difference between accent and dialect.

- ✓ He started his talk with an explanation of the difference between accent and dialect.

An **explanation of** something helps people to understand it.

extremely

282

- × I was extremely convinced that someone was following me.

- ✓ I was absolutely convinced that someone was following me.

➡ 405.1

face

283

- × My dream is to buy a house which faces at the sea.

- ✓ My dream is to buy a house which faces the sea.

Face is normally used as a transitive verb and is immediately followed by the direct object: 'The children were told to **face** the front of the class.' 'For the whole journey she sat **facing** me without saying a word.'

fact

284

× Politicians should recognize the fact people will not tolerate unemployment indefinitely.

✓ Politicians should recognize the fact that people will not tolerate unemployment indefinitely.

When **the fact** is followed by a **that**-clause, the word **that** cannot be omitted.

⇒ 838.7

faint

285

× When he saw the blood on his shirt, he was fainted.

✓ When he saw the blood on his shirt, he fainted.

If we suddenly lose consciousness, we **faint** (past tense and past participle **fainted**): 'I put my head between my knees to stop myself from **fainting**.' If we feel that we are about to lose consciousness, we feel **faint** (adjective): 'She felt **faint** with hunger and exhaustion.'

fairly

286

1

× Her new book is fairly longer than her last one.

✓ Her new book is rather longer than her last one.

We can say 'Her new book is **fairly long**' but NOT **fairly longer**. Before a comparative form (-er), we use **rather**, NOT **fairly** or **quite**.

2

× The results of the survey were fairly disappointing.

✓ The results of the survey were rather disappointing.

× He shouted at me fairly angrily.

✓ He shouted at me rather angrily.

Before an adjective or adverb that expresses a negative idea (e.g. 'disappointing', 'angrily'), we use **rather**. **Fairly** is normally used before a positive idea. Compare: 'Sales this year have been **fairly** satisfactory.' 'In the last examination, I did **fairly** well.'

⇒ 649.1

fall

287

× The film was so boring that I failed asleep.

✓ The film was so boring that I fell asleep.

Fall (infinitive), **fell** (past simple), **fallen** (past participle).

familiarize

288

× Hotel guests are advised to familiarize with the location of the nearest fire exits.

✓ Hotel guests are advised to familiarize themselves with the location of the nearest fire exits.

⇒ 838.2

far

289

1

× The nearest telephone was far from the village.

✓ The nearest telephone was a long way from the village.

We use **far** in negative contexts and in questions: 'It's *not* very **far** to the station.' 'How **far** is it to the station?' In affirmative contexts, we use **a long way**.

Note, however, that the phrases **too far**, **so far** and **far away** may be used in all contexts: 'The hotel was **too far** from the city centre.'

2

× The car stopped about two metres far from me.

✓ The car stopped about two metres (away) from me.

× The hotel is just three miles far from the beach.

✓ The hotel is just three miles (away) from the beach.

When we state a distance in units (e.g. 'two metres', 'three miles'), we do not use **far**. Compare: 'The hotel is *not* very **far** from the beach.'

farther

290

× For farther information, ring 02-376449.

✓ For further information, ring 02-376449.

When we mean 'more', we use **further**. We use **farther** (or **further**) when we are talking about distance: 'His house was **further/farther** than we had thought.'

fascinated

291

× The child stood in front of the aquarium, very fascinated.

✓ The child stood in front of the aquarium, absolutely fascinated.

⇒ 405.1

fast

292

× He drives too fastly.

✓ He drives too fast.

Fast is both an adjective and an adverb. Compare: 'He is a very **fast** swimmer.' (adjective) 'He can swim very **fast**.' (adverb)

fatigue

293

× These exercises are for people suffering from stiffness or fatigues.

✓ These exercises are for people suffering from stiffness or fatigue.

When **fatigue** means 'tiredness', it is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form.

favour

294

× Could you do a favour to me?

✓ Could you do me a favour?


We **do** someone a **favour**. The indirect object ('me') goes immediately after **do**.

favourite

295

× My most favourite season is the autumn.

✓ My favourite season is the autumn.

Favourite has a superlative meaning already and is not normally used with **most**.
 15.4

fed up

296

× A person who stays at home all the time soon gets fed up of everything.

✓ A person who stays at home all the time soon gets fed up with everything.

Before a noun phrase, we normally use **fed up with**, NOT **of**: 'We're all **fed up with** his endless complaints.' 'You only bought the dress this morning. How can you be **fed up with** it already?'

Before an **-ing** form, both **fed up with** and **fed up of** are common: 'I'm getting **fed up with/of** having to walk home every day.'

However, many careful users regard **fed up of** as incorrect.

feel

297

1

× Some of us are feeling that we are given too much homework.

✓ Some of us feel that we are given too much homework.

When **feel** means 'to think or consider', it is not used in progressive tenses.

⇒ 627.3

2

× I felt something to run across my pillow.

✓ I felt something run across my pillow.

We **feel** someone/something **do** something (NOT **to do**).

⇒ 839.3

feel like

298

× For a whole week I hadn't felt like to go out.

✓ For a whole week I hadn't felt like going out.

We **feel like doing** something, (NOT **to do** something).

⇒ 837

feet

299

× Climbing a ten-feet wall is not easy, especially in the dark.

✓ Climbing a ten-foot wall is not easy, especially in the dark.

⇒ 533.3

few

300

1

× I waited for few minutes and then rang again.

✓ I waited for a few minutes and then rang again.

Few means 'hardly any': 'Most of these people are extremely poor and **few** can afford to pay for medical attention.' When we mean 'some but not many', we use **a few**.

⇒ .2 below

2

× Unfortunately, a few of the passengers escaped injury.

✓ Unfortunately, few of the passengers escaped injury.

A few means 'some' or 'several'. When we mean 'hardly any', we use **few**.

Compare:

A few people like to spend their holidays at home.

Few people like to spend their holidays in hospital.

⇒ .1 above

3

- × He has very few chance of getting a good job.
- × These new cars will mean fewer pollution.

- ✓ He has very little chance of getting a good job.
- ✓ These new cars will mean less pollution.

With uncountable nouns ('chance', 'pollution'), we use **little/less**. We use **few/fewer** with plural count nouns. ⇒ 640.3

fill

301

- × It took me an hour to fill the application form.

- ✓ It took me an hour to fill in the application form.

In British English, we **fill in** (or sometimes **fill out**) a form. We **fill in** a space in a form: '**Fill in** the coupon below and return it in the reply paid envelope.'
'Remember to **fill in** your name and address in block capitals.'

In American English, **fill out** is more common than **fill in**.

find

302

- × He finds to stop talking impossible.

- ✓ He finds it impossible to stop talking.

⇒ 838.4

finish

303

- × Have you finished to write the letter yet?

- ✓ Have you finished writing the letter yet?

We **finish doing** something (NOT **to do** something).

⇒ 839.1

first

304

- × At first, I'd like to thank you all for inviting me here today.

- ✓ First of all, I'd like to thank you all for inviting me here today.

To signal the stages of a talk, essay, etc., we use **first (of all)/firstly, second/secondly, third/thirdly ... finally**.

At first is a time adverbial. It is used when there is a contrast between two situations in the past (an earlier situation and a later situation): '**At first** we didn't know how we were going to get there. Then Carl arrived and said that we could borrow his car.'

first aid

305

× None of us knew anything about first aids.

✓ None of us knew anything about first aid.

First aid is uncountable and does not have a plural form.

firstly

306

× Firstly, the watch worked perfectly but after two days it stopped.

✓ At first, the watch worked perfectly but after two days it stopped.

⇒ 304

fish

307

× Some customers always smell the fishes to make sure that they are fresh.

✓ Some customers always smell the fish to make sure that they are fresh.

The plural form of **fish** is usually **fish**: 'one fish', 'three fish'. **Fishes** is mainly used in conversations with very young children, and in literature written for this age group. It is also used to refer to different species of fish.

flight

308

× He will be arriving by flight K335.

✓ He will be arriving on flight K335.

We arrive/travel **by** plane but **on** (a particular) **flight**.

fly

309

× As soon as the bird saw the cat, it fled away.

✓ As soon as the bird saw the cat, it flew away.

Fly (infinitive), **flew** (past simple), **flown** (past participle).

food

310

× We took enough foods with us for three days.

✓ We took enough food with us for three days.

Food is usually an uncountable noun. Use **foods** only when referring to particular types of food: 'health foods', 'baby foods'.