



حَتَّى

## Meaning *Even*

### Question

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Dear sheikh, I have come to know that the word "حتى" can also mean *even*.

As in for instance:

All the students passed, even the lazy one.

What I am wondering, is this a correct usage of the word, and if so, is the word that follows it *majruur*?

بارك الله فيكم

## Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim حَفِظَهُ اللهُ replied (quote):

Dear Br Abdullah,

وعليكم السلام

Yes, the word حَتَّى has the meaning of *even*.

It has this meaning in two constructions:

**1.** When it is used as حَرْفُ عَطْفٍ.

E.g.:

نَجَحَ الطُّلَّابُ كُلُّهُمْ حَتَّى الْمُتَأَخِّرُونَ.

All the students passed, even those who joined late.

أَكْرَمَ الْمُدِيرُ الطُّلَّابَ كُلَّهُمْ حَتَّى الرَّاسِيْنَ.

The headmaster honoured all the students, even those who had failed.

اتَّصَلْتُ بِزُمَلَائِي كُلِّهِمْ حَتَّى بِالْأَجَانِبِ.

I contacted all my classmates, even the foreigners.

As you can see, the second noun has the same case-ending as the first because it is *ma"Tuuf*.

نَجَحَ الطُّلَّابُ كُلُّهُمْ حَتَّى الْمُتَأَخِّرُونَ.

أَكْرَمَ الْمُدِيرُ الطُّلَّابَ كُلَّهُمْ حَتَّى الرَّاسِيْنَ.

اتَّصَلْتُ بِزُمَلَائِي كُلِّهِمْ حَتَّى بِالْأَجَانِبِ.

Therefore, this حَتَّى is called حَتَّى الْعَاطِفَةُ .

## 2. When it is used before a sentence.

E.g.:

حَتَّى الْأَطْفَالُ يَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا.

Even children know this.

حَتَّى أَنْتَ تَشْكُ فِيَّ؟

Even you suspect me?

The poet, al-Rundi describing the fall of Andalusia says:

حَتَّى الْمَحَارِبُ تَبْكِي وَهِيَ جَامِدَةٌ  
حَتَّى الْمَنَابِرُ تَرْتِي وَهِيَ عِيدَانُ

Even the *mihraabs* cry  
Though they are lifeless.  
And even the *mimbars* lament  
Though they are pieces of wood.

This **حَتَّى** does not change the noun following it.

As you can see, the noun following it is *mubtada'* of the sentence.

حَتَّى الْأَطْفَالُ يَعْرِفُونَ هَذَا.

حَتَّى أَنْتَ تَشْكُ فِيَّ؟

حَتَّى الْمَحَارِبُ تَبْكِي...

حَتَّى الْمَنَابِرُ تَرْتِي...

Therefore, this **حَتَّى** is called **حَتَّى الْإِبْتِدَائِيَّةُ**.

Hope this has helped you understand this subject.

Wassalam,  
abdur rahim

## Summary

حَتَّى

Meaning *Even*

1. حَتَّى الْعَاطِفَةِ

2. حَتَّى الْإِبْتِدَائِيَّةِ

It has the meaning of *even*  
in two constructions:

1. When it is used as حَرْفُ عَطْفٍ.

This حَتَّى is called حَتَّى الْعَاطِفَةِ.

2. When it is used before a sentence.

This حَتَّى is called حَتَّى الْإِبْتِدَائِيَّةِ.