

마저

even the last one

Says the final remaining thing has gone too. Close to **조차**, but the emphasis falls on exhaustion rather than on unlikelihood.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Any noun	마저 — no change	희망마저
Replaces 이/가	not both	희망마저 — not 희망이마저
Replaces 을/를	not both	친구마저 — not 친구를마저
Context	unwelcome	친구마저 떠났어요
Emphasis	the last one gone	others went first
Different word	마저 = to the end	남은 것 마저 드세요

WHEN TO USE IT

마저 attaches to any noun without changing shape, and replaces 이/가 and 을/를 rather than stacking on them.

The picture behind it is a series being used up. Others have already gone, and now this one has followed: 마지막 희망마저 사라졌어요. There is a note of "and now there's nothing left."

Like **조차**, it lives in unwelcome contexts. The difference is subtle: **조차** says even the least likely case is included, while **마저** says even the last one has gone.

Note that **마저** also exists as an adverb meaning "to the end" — 마저 드세요 means "finish eating it." Same spelling, different word.

IN USE

- 마지막 희망마저 사라졌어요.
Even the last hope has gone.
- 이제는 친구마저 제 말을 믿지 않아요.
Now even my friends don't believe me.
- 비가 오는데 바람마저 불기 시작했어요.
It's raining, and now the wind has picked up too.
- 몸이 아픈데 일마저 밀렸어요.
I'm unwell, and on top of that the work has piled up.
- 전기마저 끊겨서 아무것도 할 수 없었다.
Even the electricity was cut off, so nothing could be done.

6 믿었던 사람마저 등을 돌렸어요.

Even the person I had trusted turned their back on me.

COMPARED WITH

조차

조차 marks the case you would least expect to be affected; 마저 marks the last one in a series that has already been depleted.

물조차 없었어요. (not even water) / 마지막 하나마저 없어졌어요. (even the last one has gone)

까지

까지 handles good news and bad alike; 마저 is restricted to the unwelcome. Adding 마저 to a happy sentence sounds wrong.

선물까지 받았어요. (I even got a present) / 친구마저 떠났어요. (even my friend left)

도

도 simply adds; 마저 adds while marking it as the last straw. The emotional weight is much heavier.

바람도 불어요. (the wind's blowing too) / 바람마저 불어요. (and now the wind as well)

WATCH OUT

X 생일에 케이크마저 받아서 기뻐했어요.

O 생일에 케이크까지 받아서 기뻐했어요.

마저 belongs to unwelcome contexts. For a pleasant addition, use 까지 or 도.

X 이제는 친구를마저 믿을 수 없어요.

O 이제는 친구마저 믿을 수 없어요.

마저 takes the place of 을/를 and 이/가 rather than sitting after them.

X 아침에 물마저 마셨어요.

O 아침에 물조차 못 마셨어요.

Both particles need an unwelcome frame. Here the point is that even water was impossible, which calls for 조차 and a negative.