ever: for emphasis

We sometimes use ever to give emotive emphasis to what we are saying as an indication that we feel very strongly about it. Thus, in speech, ever receives strong word stress:

- Don't ever do that again!
- If I ever catch you fiddling your expenses claims again, you'll be sacked.

We also use ever in questions to emphasize the question word:

- What ever have you done? (dissatisfaction, anger)
 What have you done? It's not what I expected.
- How ever did you do that? (surprise, admiration)
 How did you do that? I am amazed.
- Why ever didn't you tell him? (surprise, disappointment)
 Why didn't you tell him? It was expected of you.
- When ever are you going to finish? (dissatisfaction, anger)
 When are you going to finish? You haven't finished yet and that annoys me.

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