

# al·most S1 W1

/ˈɔːlməʊst \$ ˈbɔːlmoʊst, ɒːlˈmoʊst/

adverb

ALMOST nearly, but not completely or not quite:

*Have you almost finished?*

*Supper's almost ready.*

*It was almost midnight.*

*Almost nothing was done to improve the situation.*

*The story is **almost certainly** true.*

*He's **almost as old as** I am.*

almost all/every/everything

*Marsha visits her son almost every day.*

## THESAURUS

almost not completely or not quite: *I've almost finished my essay. | It's almost lunchtime.*

nearly almost. **Nearly** is more commonly used in British English than American English: *I've been a teacher for nearly 10 years now. | It's **very nearly** time to go home.*

not quite almost, but not yet: *'Is he 60?' 'Not quite!' | It's not quite time to go yet. | I'm not quite ready yet.*

practically/virtually very nearly: *The room was practically empty. |*

practically all/everything/everyone etc: *The frost killed practically every plant in the garden. | Virtually everyone had gone home.*

more or less/just about/pretty much (especially spoken) very nearly – use this when saying that the difference is

not important: *All the rooms are more or less the same size.* | *His jacket was pretty much the same colour as his trousers.* | *The policy will benefit just about everyone.*

getting on for (BrE) (informal) , **getting on toward** (especially AmE) (informal) almost a particular time, age, or period of time – used especially when you are not sure of the exact time, age etc: *It's getting on for 10 years since we last saw each other.* | *'How old's Diane?' 'She must be getting on toward 50.'*

close to almost a particular number, amount, or time – used especially when the number or amount is surprisingly large or the time is very late: *It was close to midnight by the time we arrived.* | *They've spent close to \$1.3 billion on the project.*

approaching/ nearing almost – used when a number or amount is still increasing or a time is getting nearer: *The unemployment rate was nearing 20%.*

be on the verge of (doing) something to be very close to doing something: *She was on the verge of tears* (= almost crying) . | *I was on the verge of giving up.* | *They were on the verge of making a decision.*

be on the brink of something to be very close to an extremely bad situation: *The two countries are on the brink of war.* | *The company was on the brink of bankruptcy.*

### Word origin

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *ealmæst*, from *eall* 'all' + *mæst* 'mostly'