

al·read·y

S1 W1

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adverb

1 NOW before now, or before a particular time:

The design of the new house is similar to those that have already been built.

The performance had already started when we arrived.

2 NOW used to say that something has been done before and does not need doing again:

You already told me that.

'Fancy a coffee?' 'No thanks, I already have one.'

3 NOW used to say that something has happened too soon or before the expected time:

Have you eaten all that food already?

Is it 5 o'clock already?

4 NOW used to say that a situation exists and it might get worse, greater etc:

Hurry up, we're already late.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: *all ready* 'completely ready'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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