Near can be used as a preposition, an adjective or an adverb.

When used as an adverb, near is the opposite of far. It means within a short distance in space or time.

- The station is quite near.
- The Christmas holidays are drawing near.
- He lives nearby. OR He lives near at hand.

Near can also be used as a preposition.

- Don’t go near the edge of the parapet. You may fall over it.
- Don’t go near the well.
- It is getting near lunch-time.
- We live near the station.

Near can also be used as an adjective. The adjective near has comparative and superlative forms ending in -er and -est.

- She is a near relative of mine.
- They are our near and dear ones.

Nearer and nearest are generally used with to.

- Who is that little boy sitting nearest to the door?

Nearest and next

Nearest means most near in space.

- Excuse me. Where’s the nearest bus station?

Next means ‘after this / that one’.

- We look forward to your next visit.
- We will get off at the next station.

Almost and nearly

Almost and nearly can be used with similar meanings.

- There were nearly a hundred people.
- There were almost a hundred people.
**Nearly** is not normally used with non-assertive words like *never, nobody, nothing, anything, any* etc.

- He will eat **almost** anything. (NOT He will eat nearly anything.)