

MISTAKES WITH "NEARLY"

122. ~~X~~ I ~~nearly~~ never go to the cinema.
✓ I **almost** never go to the cinema.
✓ I **hardly** ever go to the cinema.

123. ~~X~~ I ~~nearly~~ ever go to work on Sundays.
✓ I **almost** never go to work on Sundays.
✓ I **hardly** ever go to work on Sundays.

More examples :

- ~~X~~ I was disappointed because ~~nearly~~ no-one came to my art exhibition.
✓ I was disappointed because **almost** no-one came to my art exhibition.

- ~~X~~ There's ~~nearly~~ nothing in the fridge so I'd better go shopping.
✓ There's **almost** nothing in the fridge so I'd better go shopping.

- ~~X~~ ~~Nearly~~ none of the original hardware is still in service.
✓ **Almost** none of the original hardware is still in service.

Nearly is not often used with 'never', 'no-one', 'nobody', 'nowhere', 'nothing', 'no' and 'none'. Instead, we use **almost**, or we use **hardly** with a non-negative form.

Incorrect:

~~Nearly~~ never , ~~Nearly~~ nobody, ~~Nearly~~ nowhere, ~~Nearly~~ nothing, ~~Nearly~~ none, ~~Nearly~~ no

Correct :

Almost never, Almost nobody, Almost nowhere, Almost nothing, Almost none, Almost no

A good mnemonic is to remember that Nearly starts with an "N" and all negative forms start also with an "N".