

Almost, almost all and almost always

1. *Do the following pairs of sentences have the same or different meaning?*

a) Almost all Koreans eat rice
Most Koreans eat rice

b) I almost reached the station on time
I nearly reached the station on time

c) I usually start work at 7pm
I almost always start work at 7pm

What are the differences?

2. *What are the mistakes in these sentences?*

a) Almost Asians respect old people

b) Almost I have finished my homework

c) I almost start work at 7a.m.

3. *What are the differences in meaning between these words and phrases?*

Almost

Almost all

Almost always

4. *Why could these mistakes be amusing?*

a) Koreans almost eat rice for breakfast

b) I almost go to work on Saturdays

5. *What should those two sentences probably be?*

a) Koreans almost eat rice for breakfast

b) I almost go to work on Saturdays



Answer key

1. Do the following pairs of sentences have the same or different meaning?

- a) Almost all Koreans eat rice/ Most Koreans eat rice – **Different**
- b) I almost reached the station on time/ I nearly reached the station on time – **The same**
- c) I usually start work at 7pm/ I almost always start work at 7pm – **Different**

What are the differences?

- a) **“Almost all” means a greater number of people, nearly 100%**
- c) **“Almost always” is more often, meaning nearly always**

2. What are the mistakes in these sentences?

- a) **Almost all** Asians respect old people
- b) I have **almost** finished my homework
- c) I almost **always** start work at 7a.m.

3. What are the differences in meaning between these words and phrases?

Almost = Nearly

Almost all = Nearly 100%

Almost always= An adverb of frequency, meaning more often than “usually” but less often than “always”

4. Why could these mistakes be amusing?

- a) Koreans almost eat rice for breakfast
- b) I almost go to work on Saturdays
They would both meaning that you nearly do that thing but don't actually do it, e.g. nearly arriving at work but then deciding to go home

5. What should those two sentences probably be?

- a) Koreans almost **always** eat rice for breakfast/ **Almost all** Koreans eat rice for breakfast
- b) I almost **always** go to work on Saturdays