

Using next and nearest

Nearest is used for place. It is used to refer to people or things which are most near in space.

Excuse me. Where is the nearest hospital? (NOT Where is the next hospital?)

The nearest railway station is two kilometers away.

Next is used to talk about time or position in a series. It means 'after this / that one'.

We will get off at the next station. (NOT We will get off at the nearest station.)

We are looking forward to your next visit. (NOT We are looking forward to your nearest visit.)

As soon as he finished one project, he started planning the next. (NOT ... he started planning the nearest.)

Next can be used for place in a few fixed expressions. In this case it means 'nearest in space'. The most common expressions of this kind are 'next door' and 'next to'.

The boy next door is a little careless about truth. (NOT The boy nearest door is a little careless about truth.)

Who is sitting next to Peter? (More natural than 'Who is sitting nearest to Peter?')