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## Oops!

## Do I Do That?

Momentarily  
vs.  
In a moment

Momentarily: for a moment or an instant

(Momentarily traditionally does *not* mean "in a moment.")

YES:  
"Her Internet connection went down momentarily."

NO:  
"The program will begin momentarily."

(Definition from the American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition)

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## Not-Really Verbs

It should come as no surprise that, as a language develops, words and their meanings and uses change over time. The terms listed below traditionally were used as nouns; now, with the passage of time (and, interestingly, with the increasing use of science and technology-based terms in everyday language), they are commonly used as verbs.

Strictly speaking, then, those adhering to a more traditionalist view of American English do not feel that the following words should be used as verbs:

**Contact**

Appropriate verb substitutes:  
Touch, get in touch, connect

Noun synonyms:  
Touch, connection

**Critique**

Appropriate verb substitutes:  
Review, analyze, criticize

Noun synonyms:  
Review, analysis, summary

**Impact**

Appropriate verb substitutes:  
Affect, influence, change

Noun synonyms:  
Repercussion, collision, effect

**Input**

Appropriate verb substitutes:  
Enter (as in data), comment

Noun synonyms:  
Feedback, commentary

**Loan**

Appropriate verb substitutes:  
Lend

Noun synonyms:  
Borrowed money

## It's All Right Now

A significant percentage of writers use "alright" as a substitute for "all right." Unfortunately, this is incorrect; perhaps confused with such terms as "already" and "altogether," "all right" should always be written as two words.

## Kelci Lynn now featured on About.com

Kelci Lynn Lucier, Founder and Executive Editor of [kelcilynn.com](http://kelcilynn.com), has officially "gone live" (after a few technical glitches) as the College Life Guide for About.com. About, Inc. is owned by The New York Times and has 34 million unique users per month. Articles, forums, and more can be viewed at <http://collegelife.about.com>.

## Need to Check a Word's Definitions?

If you want more than one definition for a term, OneLook may be your best online resource. The site will look up your search term, produce results from multiple online dictionaries, and provide links for each definition.

It's bookmark worthy!

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## Nifty Word of the Month

Need to reschedule that meeting? If you want to move it later, *postpone* it; if you want to move it up, *prepone* it.

**Prepone, verb:**  
bring forward to an earlier date or time

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Sixth Edition)