

common phrases with

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At once

- 1) immediately or without delay
- When I saw him I recognized him at once.
 - 2) at the same time:
- I can't do two things at once!

All at once

suddenly and unexpectedly.

 All at once there was a loud. crashing sound.

UK Informal. On one single occasion.

• He only did it the once.

once again/once more

One more time / another time

- Once again the train was late.
 - The fair was once more a tremendous success.

Once-over

give sth/sb the once-over

to look at and examine something or someone quickly:

She gave the room a quick once-over before the guests arrived.

Once and for all

- 1) completely and in a way that will finally solve a problem.
- We need to settle this once and for all.
- 2) UK spoken used to emphasize your impatience when you ask or say sth that you have asked or said many times before
 - Once and for all, will you be guiet!

The once

(every) once in a while

sometimes but not often:

- We meet for lunch once in a while.
 - Make sure you take a break every once in a while.

do something once too often

to cause trouble for yourself by repeating dangerous, stupid, or annoying behaviour

- He's insulted me once too often. He's going to regret this!
- He tried that trick once too often and in the end they caught him.

(just) this once

used for emphasizing that this is the only time that something will happen

- Go on, lend me the car, just this once.
 - I'll make an exception this once.

(just) for once

.used when something happens that does not usually happen:

- For once Colin was speechless.
- Just for once he arrived on time.

Once bitten, twice shy

used to say that if you have failed or been hurt once, you will be more careful next time.

 After Harry was sick on the rollercoaster, I don't think he'll go on one again – once bitten, twice shy!

Once a ..., always a ...

spoken used to say that somebody cannot change

- Once a thief, always a thief.
- Once an actor, always an actor