

phrases with ONCE



C1 Advanced learn how to do Key Word Transformation exercises

all at once

suddenly and unexpectedly.

- All at once there was a loud crashing sound.

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!

(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 a ..., always a ...

spoken used to say that somebody cannot change

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

once again

once more/ one more time / another time

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

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 quiet!

- Once and for all, will you be quiet!

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!

(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.

once too often

do something once too often to cause trouble for yourself by repeating dangerous, stupid, or annoying behaviour

- He tried that trick once too often and in the end they caught him.

the once (UK Informal)

On one single occasion.

- He only did it the once.
- I've only played rugby the once, and I never want to play it again.

(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.

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.