

UNIT Expressions of Frequency

68

See also

Unit 67

Adverbs

A Sample sentences

- How often do you see her?
- We always keep cash for emergencies.
- He rarely goes out to dinner.
- The industry holds a trade exhibition twice a year.

B Form

We can divide expressions of frequency into indefinite frequency and definite frequency.

1. Indefinite frequency

These phrases tell us approximately how often something happens:



We usually sell our products through a network of agents.
They never offer our competitors' products.

2. Definite frequency

These phrases tell us more precisely how often something happens in a period of time:

Frequency	Time
once	a minute
twice	an hour
three times	a day
four times	a week
five times	a month
many times	a year

Frequency	Time
every	minute
every	morning
every	night
every	year
every	Monday
every	July

Frequency
hourly
weekly
monthly
quarterly
annually
yearly

We review our sales figures twice a year.
We print a new brochure annually.

C Uses

1. Questions about frequency:
How often do you go to head office?
2. Statements about frequency:
We normally charge £25 for replacing cards which have been lost or stolen.
(See Unit 67 C2 for position of adverbs.)
Usually the employer pays a certain number of dollars per hour. (special emphasis)
We launch new products twice a year. (normal position)
Once a year we carry out a customer survey. (special emphasis)

TASKS

Exercise 1

Make frequency adverbs from the following jumbled letters. Then number them 1-7, in order of frequency.

tofne	yerlar	vasclinloanc	reenv	sawyal	queenfrytl	emositsem
				always		
				1		

Exercise 2

Complete the following phrases with an expression of frequency, based on the word(s) in brackets.

- I go to London _____ (January and June).
- We have meetings _____ (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc.).
- Our share price changes _____ (1 p.m., 2 p.m., etc.).
- I write a sales report _____ (Friday afternoon).
- We report to Head Office _____ (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).
- Our Sales Report is published _____ (December).
- I _____ go to America on business (zero).

Exercise 3

Two people are in an airport department lounge in Amsterdam. They are waiting for a flight to New York. Complete part of the conversation with frequency expressions from the box.

always how often frequently usually(2) times a day
twice normally sometimes rarely never

- Wim:** _____ do you go to New York?
Maurice: _____ We have an office there, so I have to go about once or _____ a month.
Wim: Do you _____ fly with KLM?
Maurice: Well, I _____ use KLM because my partner works in Amsterdam. I _____ visit him before I go to New York, but I _____ fly British Airways from London.
Wim: Are there a lot of flights to New York from London?
Maurice: Oh yes. There's one about six _____.
Wim: Well, before the flight, I'll get some Duty Free. I _____ get something.
Maurice: Really? I _____ do. I don't smoke and I _____ drink so I don't buy anything from Duty Free.

Transfer

Write sentences about what you do and do not do. Use frequency adverbs to say how often.