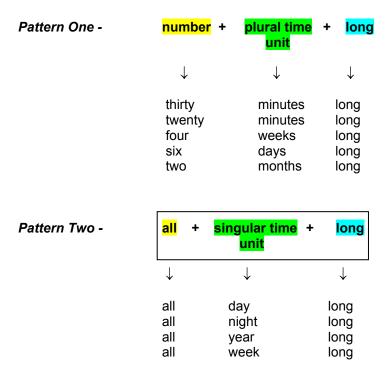
VOCABULARY EXPRESSIONS OF TIME

HOW LONG?

When you want to know about the duration (length of time) of an activity, use how long?

Examples:

- How long is your class?
 My class is forty-five minutes long.
- How long was the arbitration?
 It was four days long.



Examples:

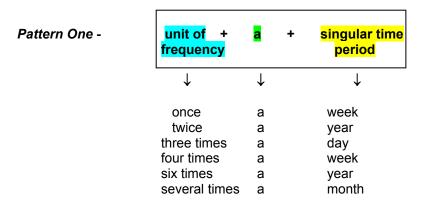
- **How long** were your computers down? They were down **all morning long**. It was terrible!
- **How long** will Joe be out of the office? He'll be out **all week long.** He won't be back until next Monday.

HOW OFTEN?

When you want to know about the **frequency** (repeated times) of an activity, use **how often?**

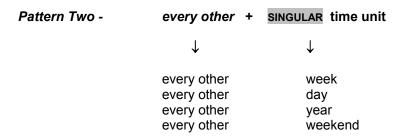
Examples:

- How often does he fly to New York?
 He flies there once a month.
- How often do you play tennis?
 I usually play twice a week.
- **How often** do you go camping? I try to go **three times a year**.



Sometimes an activity takes place in an **alternating** pattern. For example, you may play tennis on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, but *not* play on Tuesday and Thursday.

Use the following pattern to express alternating patterns of frequency.



Examples:

- How often do you visit your wife's family?
 We usually see them every other weekend.
- How often do they have elections?
 They have them every other year.

² **Twice** means two times.

¹ **Once** means one time.

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Finally, many activities take place on a regular frequency that does not meet the other two patterns.

Examples:

- The President of the United States is elected every four years.
- Publicly held companies must publish their interim earnings statement every ninety days in the U.S.

The above activities/events take place in *fixed*, *established* patterns of frequency.

To express frequency of repeated action such as the above, use the following pattern:

Pattern Three -	every +	number +	PLURAL time unit
	\downarrow	\downarrow	\downarrow
	every every every every	four eight two thirty sixty	days hours minutes days seconds

Examples:

- They change shifts in that hospital every eight hours.
- How often do you review your employees' job performance?
 Every six months.

Summary Example

- How often do you get paid?
 We get paid
 - every fifteen days
 - twice a month
 - every other week

TWO NICE EXPRESSIONS TO KNOW

When action occurs or events take place *sometimes*, but without any particular regularity – two very FLUENT ways to answer the question "How OFTEN?" are:

- every now and then
- every so often

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Both the above expressions mean "sometimes."

Place all the expressions explained in this worksheet at the END of your sentence.