

on and off

Complete sentences 1–12 by choosing an ending from a–l.

- 1 It wasn't planned. We did it ...
- 2 Charles had short legs, so he found it hard ...
- 3 The students were *on tenterhooks* as they ...
- 4 I've been learning Japanese *on and off* ...
- 5 They arranged to meet outside the cinema ...
- 6 We just called round ...
- 7 The two men who escaped from jail at the weekend ...
- 8 Oh, what's that actor's name? I know it! It's ...
- 9 Let's meet later at the church. I'll ...
- 10 They're sending someone from head office to inspect us today ...
- 11 I can't take any more work on. I've got enough ...
- 12 Remember, you mustn't print any of it! What I've just told you ...



'What sort of insect is that?'
'Er ... it's *on the tip of my tongue!*'

- a is strictly *off the record*.
- b *on my plate* as it is.
- c on the *off-chance* that you were at home.
- d so we'd better be *on our toes*.
- e *on the spur of the moment*.
- f at 8.30 *on the dot*.
- g be *off duty* by then.
- h to buy clothes *off the peg*.
- i are still *on the run*.
- j for about two years now.
- k waited for their exam results.
- l *on the tip of my tongue!*

Write your answers here:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
e											



In the past, freshly woven cloth was stretched on a framework called a *tenter* and held tight by small hooks known as *tenterhooks*. If you are feeling anxious, your body is often tight or tense (*on tenterhooks*). The opposite of *off duty* is *on duty*.