ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Saying How Often Quiz: Hardly Ever, Every So Often, As a Rule

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/saying-how-often-quiz-hardly-ever-every-so-often-as-a-rule/

1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**D**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**B**	14	**A**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. Tickets are so expensive now. We ___ go to the cinema.
✔ **B) hardly ever**
Hardly ever means almost never. It is already negative, so there is no never or don't with it.

2. This is a well-tested system. Such errors ___ occur.
✔ **D) seldom**
Seldom is a formal word for rarely. It goes before the main verb, and there is no form seldomly.

3. I don't eat much chocolate, just ___ piece after dinner.
✔ **A) the occasional**
The occasional + a singular noun means one now and then, with long gaps.

4. I left school years ago, but I still hear from my old teacher now and ___.
✔ **C) then**
Now and then (or now and again) means sometimes, with long gaps.

5. Every ___ often, we take the kids to the seaside for the day.
✔ **A) so**
Every so often means sometimes, with no fixed plan.

6. The coffee machine at work breaks down ___.
✔ **B) from time to time**
The machine works for weeks, then breaks, then works again: it breaks down from time to time, a neutral phrase that fits well at work.

7. Once ___ a while, I treat myself to a massage.
✔ **D) in**
Once in a while means not often, usually for a treat or a change.

8. The internet has worked ___ all day: two minutes yes, then nothing, then yes again.
✔ **C) on and off**
On and off means it starts, stops and starts again with no pattern.

9. I love my job, but ___ it can be stressful, and my phone rings ___.
✔ **A) at times … constantly**
At times means on some days but not always. Constantly (an adverb) means all the time, with no real break.

10. My yoga days this month: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Tuesday and so on. I go ___ day.
✔ **D) every other**
Yoga, rest, yoga, rest: one day yes, one day no is every other day.

11. There are ___ flights from London to Dublin, about one an hour.
✔ **B) frequent**
Frequent is the adjective: it happens many times with short gaps. Frequently is the adverb and frequency the noun.

12. The office windows are cleaned on a regular ___.
✔ **C) basis**
On a regular basis is a formal way to say regularly.

13. ___, I never lend money, and ___ out of ten I'm glad I didn't.
✔ **B) As a rule … nine times**
As a rule means this is your normal habit. Nine times out of ten means almost always.

14. Which phrase means "usually: about six or seven times out of ten"?
✔ **A) more often than not**
More often than not means usually, more than half the time.

15. I've told you time and ___: please don't leave your shoes in the hall!
✔ **C) again**
Time and again (or time after time) means many times. You say it when you are tired of repeating something.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com