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many times synonym frequentlyWe often go there.I've often wondered what happened to him.How often do you go to the theatre?I see her quite often.Try to exercise as often as possible.We should meet for lunch more often.It is not often that you get such an opportunity.Extra ExamplesHow often does it happen?It's not often that I receive fan letters.She likes to get out of the city as often as possible.Stolen information is most often used for credit card fraud. Topics Time1 in many cases synonym commonlyOld houses are often damp.People are often afraid of things they don't understand.All too often the animals die through neglect.His success depended, as so often happens, on things entirely outside his control.The residents often have difficulty accessing services to meet their needs.Extra ExamplesPeople often find it difficult to say goodbye.She's mean. Rich people very often are.Traffic has increased and the roads are all too often inadequate. Word OriginMiddle English: extended form of oft, probably influenced by selden ‘seldom’. Early examples appear to be northern English; the word became general in the 16th cent.Idioms as often as not | more often than not usually; in a way that is typical of somebody/something As often as not, he's late for work. occasionally; sometimesEvery so often I heard a strange noise outside. used to say that somebody has done something wrong or stupid again, and this time they will suffer because of itYou've tried that trick once too often. See often in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee often in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Nearby words OFT oft- prefix often adverb oftentimes adverb Ofwat Princeton's WordNet3.3 / 3 votesfrequently, often, oftentimes, oft, ofttimesadverbmany times at short intervals"we often met over a cup of coffee"much, a great deal, oftenadverbfrequently or in great quantities"I don't drink much"; "I don't travel much"oftenadverbin many cases or instancesWiktionary0.0 / 0 votesoftenadverbFrequently, many times.Samuel Johnson's Dictionary0.0 / 0 votesOftenadverbin the comparative, oftner; superlative, oftnest. Oft; frequently; many times; not seldom.Etymology: from oft , Saxon;The queen that bore thee,Oftner upon her knees than on her feet,Died ev’ry day she liv’d. William Shakespeare, Macbeth. Use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake, and thine often infirmities. 1 Tim. v. 23. In journeying often, in perils in the wilderness. 2 Cor. ii. 26. Who does not more admire Marcus Tullius Cicero as an author, than as a consul of Rome, and does not oftner talk of the celebrated writers of our own country in former ages, than of any among their contemporaries? Joseph Addison, Freeholder.Wikipedia0.0 / 0 votesOftenOften is a song by Canadian singer The Weeknd. The track was released on July 31, 2014 as the first single from his second studio album, Beauty Behind the Madness (2015). The song reached number 59 on the Billboard Hot 100 and number 69 on the Canadian Hot 100. The song samples the song "Ben Sana Vurgunum" sung by the Turkish singer Nükhet Duru.ChatGPT0.0 / 0 votesoftenOften is an adverb that is used to indicate frequency or regularity. It means that something occurs or happens many times or frequently.British National CorpusSpoken Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'often' in Spoken Corpus Frequency: #216Written Corpus FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'often' in Written Corpus Frequency: #505Adverbs FrequencyRank popularity for the word 'often' in Adverbs Frequency: #38Usage in printed sourcesFrom: How to pronounce often?How to say often in sign language?NumerologyChaldean NumerologyThe numerical value of often in Chaldean Numerology is: 2Pythagorean NumerologyThe numerical value of often in Pythagorean Numerology is: 6Paul. F. Meekin:Since I've been in the education business - often the only way to relate to teachers, parents & children - are with words of wisdom. If I could know all the wise books by heart - I would stand a chance at being a better Headmaster. Also for when it comes to my family & friends - that knowledge would always be there to give inspiration & encouragement & tell me who can’t use that with their relatives!Mark Zuckerberg:I personally find Holocaust denial deeply offensive, and I absolutely didn’t intend to defend the intent of people who deny that, of course if a post crossed a line into advocating for violence or hate against a particular group, it would be removed. ... These issues are very challenging but I believe that often the best way to fight offensive bad speech is with good speech.Oscar Auliq-Ice:Poetry often distills complex ideas and emotions into simple yet powerful language.Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly:[Employees] are often ridiculed and insulted by public officials and frequently convicted in the court of public opinion on unfounded allegations testified to by street lawyers and street spokespersons, if lawmakers do not like the laws that we enforce, that we are charged to enforce, that we are sworn to enforce, then they should have the courage and the skill to change those laws. Otherwise, they should shut up and support the men and women on the front lines.Helen Keller:When one door closes, another opens. But we often look so regretfully upon the closed door that we don't see the one that has opened for us. References dikwelsAfrikaansغالبا, غالباً, كثيراًArabictez-tezAzerbaijaniчáстаBelarusianчѐстоBulgarianBengaliliesBretonsovintCatalan, ValenciančastoCzechyn amlWelshofte, hyppigDanishoft, häufigGermanσυχνάGreekofteEsperantoseguido, frecuentemente, a menudoSpanishsageli, tihtiEstonianmaizBasqueاغلب, بارهاPersianuseinFinnishsouventFrench[[go]] [[minic]]Irishtric, gu tricScottish GaelicקרובותלעיתיתHebrewHindisouvanHaitian CreolegyakranHungarianհաճախArmeniansoventeInterlinguaseringIndonesianofteIdotítt, oft, oftlega, ósjaldan, iðulega, þrá-IcelandicspessoItalian頻繁, 度々, よく, しばしばJapaneseხშირად, ზშირადGeorgianжиі-жиі, жиіKazakhKhmerKannada, ,Koreanزۆر جار, بارەها, گەلێ جارKurdishтез-тез, жышKyrgyzsaepe, saepenumerōLatindacksLuxembourgish, LetzeburgeschददैनSinhalaदैनSinhalaLaodažnaiLithuanianbiežiLatvianчестоMacedonianбайн байн, үргэлжMongoliansering, kerapMalayspissMaltese, , , , Burmesevaak, dikwijlsDutchofte, hyppigNorwegianmoozhagOjibwe, OjibwaczęstoPolishfreqüentementePortuguesesavensRomanshdesRomanianзачастýю, частéнько, чáсто, довольно частоRussiančêsto, чêстоSerbo-CroatiančastoSlovakpogóstoSloveneshpeshAlbanianoftaSwedish, , , , Tamil, , Teluguаглаб, зичTajik, ThaiÝygy, ýygy-ýygydan, aglabaTurkmensık sık, sıkTurkishшатарчáсто, частоUkrainianاکثرUrdutez-tezUzbekluôn, thường, hayVietnamesesuvoVolapüksovintWalloon经常Chinese - Select - 简体中文 (Chinese - Simplified) 繁體中文 (Chinese - Traditional) Español (Spanish) Esperanto (Esperanto) 日本語 (Japanese) Português (Portuguese) Deutsch (German) العربية (Arabic) Français (French) Русский (Russian) (Kannada) (Korean) עברית (Hebrew) Gaeilge (Irish) Українська (Ukrainian) اردو (Urdu) Magyar (Hungarian) (Hindi) Indonesia (Indonesian) Italiano (Italian) (Tamil) Türkçe (Turkish) (Telugu) (Thai) Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) Čeština (Czech) Polski (Polish) Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian) Româneşte (Romanian) Nederlands (Dutch) Ελληνικά (Greek) Latinum (Latin) Svenska (Swedish) Dansk (Danish) Suomi (Finnish) فارسی (Persian) יידיש (Yiddish) հայերեն (Armenian) Norsk (Norwegian) English (English) There’s a t in oftenplay , but often, ahem, you don’t hear it. As you might guess, the t was pronounced in the past, when the word to be used in the early 1300s as a variant of oft (also spelled ofte in Middle English). (Oft was the more common form until the 1500s; it’s now archaic for most of the senses of often, but it is still used in compound adjectives like oft-repeated and oft-quoted. Ofttimes and oftentimes both carry that archaic flavor but are still in active use.) But eventually the t in often fell away in pronunciation, remaining only as a hint of the word’s meaning and origin. Henry Gillard Glindoni, "John Dee performing an experiment before Queen Elizabeth I." Though Queen Elizabeth did not pronounce the \t\ in 'often', most careful speakers in 17th century England did. Eventually, standard pronunciation followed the queen's example, but you don't have to. Silent Medial T’s Similarly, the medial t in words like soften, hasten, and fasten was originally pronounced, as the -en was added to base words that were recognizable (soft, haste, fast). Listen is a bit different; although the archaic verb list exists, listen comes from the Middle English listnen, and the t, in the peculiar position after s and before n, was not pronounced. In often, the t came back via a spelling-influenced pronunciation in the 1600s, as both literacy and printing expanded rapidly in England. E. J. Dobson’s authoritative work English Pronunciation 1500-1700 notes that Queen Elizabeth herself did not pronounce the t. However: phonetically spelled lists made in the 17th century indicate that “the pronunciation without [t] seems to have been avoided in careful speech.” Nevertheless, the prestige or upper-class standard pronunciation seems to have followed the queen’s example, because three hundred years later, the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary added this note to its entry for often: The pronunciation (óf-tən), which is not recognized in dictionaries, is now frequent in the south of England, and is often used in singing. And the 1934 unabridged Webster’s Second had this: The pronunciation ôf-tən, until recently generally considered as more or less illiterate, is not uncommon among the educated in some sections, and is often used in singing. This note is curious—and dubious—for two reasons. It apparently judges the speaker rather than the word, to which it adds the irony that the criticized pronunciation in question is based entirely on the word’s spelling. A person who uses this pronunciation would almost certainly be able to read. The medial t dropped out of many common words formed with -en, but it came back in often. It is common today, and this dictionary reports both pronunciations as equally accepted. When it comes to speaking or writing in English, figuring out the correct form of a word can really make a difference in your confidence. Have you ever found yourself hesitating between two words that seem right, but you’re just not sure which one to use? It happens to a lot of us. Take, for instance, the dilemma between “often” and “oftenly.” The correct word to use is often. “Oftenly” is not a standard English word and you should avoid using it. Often means frequently or many times. For example, “She visits her grandmother often.” Using often correctly shows that you know how to use adverbs properly, which is important for clear communication. Incorrect use of words like “oftenly” can confuse listeners and readers, making it harder to understand your message. Understanding the Basics First off, what do both of these words mean? This might sound like a super simple question, but getting it clear can help a lot. “Often” is an adverb – think of it as a word that helps to describe how frequently something happens. For example, if you eat pizza more than once a week, you might say, “I eat pizza often.” Now, what about “oftenly”? Well, here’s a quick tip: although it might sound like it fits right into the sentence just like “often,” this form is actually not recognized as a standard word in English. Yes, that might sound a bit confusing! What Makes ‘Often’ the Preferred Choice? So, if “oftenly” isn’t the right word to use, why do people say it? This is a good question. Sometimes, we add “ly” to an adjective to turn it into an adverb, just like changing “happy” to “happily.” However, “often” is already an adverb. There’s no need to add “ly” to it. Using “often” is enough. It’s just like how we use “fast” in “The car drives fast,” not “fastly.” Let’s look at some examples to make this clearer: “She visits her grandparents often, usually once a month.” I often wonder why the sky is blue.” “He doesn’t often get to play outside.” In each sentence, “often” is used to describe the frequency of an action without needing any extra help from “ly.” Is ‘Oftenly’ Ever Correct? Here’s something interesting: even though “oftenly” isn’t found in most dictionaries, some people might use it in casual conversations or in regions where non-standard English is common. That being said, if you’re aiming to speak or write English in a more formal or correct way, it’s best to stick with “often.” You might hear someone say, “I go there oftenly,” and that’s an example of how sometimes language rules can be bent in everyday use. But for school papers, job applications, or important emails, you’ll want to use “often.” How Can You Remember This? Think of “often” like a handy tool that doesn’t need an upgrade. It works perfectly on its own! If you’re ever in doubt, try replacing “often” with another frequency adverb like “sometimes” or “rarely” to see if it still sounds right. You wouldn’t say “sometimesly” or “rarelyly,” right? Here’s another catchy way to remember it. Imagine you have a friend named Often who is super reliable. You don’t need to call him “Oftenly” to make sure he knows you mean him. “Often” will recognize itself and do the job just fine! A Few Tips to Master Frequency Adverbs Besides just knowing when to use “often,” how can you get really good at these little words that describe how much or how often? Here are a few tips: Listen to how native speakers use frequency adverbs in their sentences. This can give you a real feel for the correct usage. Practice by reading a lot. Seeing words in context can make all the difference! When in doubt, look it up. There’s no shame in checking an online dictionary or asking a friend. Remember, mastering these small details can make your English sound a lot more natural. Think of each conversation or writing piece as practice. The more you use words like “often,” the more confident you’ll become in choosing the right word at the right time. Wrap-Up By kicking “oftenly” to the curb and sticking with “often,” you’re already on your way to sounding like a pro. It’s all about keeping it simple and using what works best. Next time you catch yourself or someone else saying “oftenly,” you’ll know just what to do—switch it for “often” and keep the conversation flowing smoothly. So, the next time you’re jotoring with friends or jotting down notes for class, remember: “often” is your go-to word for frequency. No “ly” needed! From Middle English often, alteration (with final -n added due to analogy with Middle English selden (“seldom”)) of Middle English ofte, oft, from Old English oft (“often”), from Proto-Germanic *ufta, *uftō (“often”). Cognate with Scots oftin (“often”), North Frisian oftem (“often”), Saterland Frisian oafte (“often”), German oft (“often”), Pennsylvania German oft (“often”), Danish ofte (“often”), Norwegian Bokmål ofte (“often”), Norwegian Nynorsk ofte (“often”), Swedish ofta (“often”), and Icelandic oft (“often”). (Received Pronunciation) IPA(key): /ˈɒfən/, /ˈɒftən/, (East Anglia, Traditional RP) /ˈɔːf(t)ən/ (General American) IPA(key): /ˈɔf(t)ən/ (cot–caught merger) IPA(key): /ˈɑf(t)ən/ (Canada) IPA(key): /ˈɒf(t)ən/ Audio (US, cot–caught merger): Historically, the /t/ was pronounced but the current pronunciation was standardized after it stopped being pronounced (as in, e.g., listen, soften, glisten). Therefore, the modern forms where the /t/ is pronounced (compare oft) are spelling-influenced pronunciations. The traditional /t/-less form is considered by many to be “more correct” for that reason. Homophone: orphan (non-rhotic, lot–cloth split) Rhymes: -ɒfən, -ɒftən Hyphenation: oft·en often (comparative more often or oftener, superlative most often or oftenest) Frequently; many times on different occasions. Synonyms: a lot, (archaic except US) oftentimes, typically; see also Thesaurus:often Antonyms: infrequently, occasionally, rarely, seldom, (literary except India) unoften; see also Thesaurus:rarely I often walk to work when the weather is nice. I’ve been going to the movies more often since a new theatre opened near me. It can't be said too often / often enough. 1791, John Walker, A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary […] [1], London: Sold by G. G. J. and J. Robinfon, Paternofter Row; and T. Cadell, in the Strand, ¬OCLC, page 557:☞ This word [wrap] is often pronounced wrop, rhyming with top, even by fpeakers much above the vulgar. 1850, T. S. Arthur, “A Rise in the Butter Market”, in Sketches of Life and Character[2], Philadelphia: J. W. Bradley, ¬OCLC, page 59:How often is the comfort of a whole family abridged by some trifling circumstance, that ought not to have made a visible impression! 1912, P. Chalmers Mitchell, “Larvæ and Metamorphoses”, in The Childhood of Animals[3], New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, ¬OCLC, page 17:Although frogs are able to swim well and often are found in water, they are really land animals. 2013 June 8, “Obama goes troll-hunting”, in The Economist, volume 407, number 8839, page 55:According to this saga of intellectual-property misanthropy, these creatures [patent trolls] roam the business world, buying up patents and then using them to demand extravagant payouts from companies they accuse of infringing them. Often, their victims pay up rather than face the costs of a legal battle. often (comparative more often, superlative most often) (archaic) Frequent. c. 1598–1600 (date written), William Shakespeare, “As You Like It”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies […] (First Folio), London: […] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, ¬OCLC, [Act IV, scene i]:[…] it is a melancholy of mine own, compounded of many simples, extracted from many objects, and, indeed, the sundry contemplation of my travels; in which my often rumination wraps me in a most humorous sadness. 1618, Anthony Munday (translator), The Third Booke of Amadis de Gaule by Nicolas de Herberay des Essarts (1542), London, Chapter 2, p. 18,[4] Then came the Ladies to visite him, and the Queene gaue him most gracious welcome, desiring him to be of good cheere: For heere is my Daughter (quoth she) right skilfull in the Art of Chirurgerie, that meanes to bee your often visitant. 1656, John Bunyan, chapter 48, in Solomon’s Temple Spiritualiz’d[5], London: George Larkin, published 1688, page 113:The Shew-bread by an often remove, and renewing, was continually to stand before the Lord in his House […] From ofte. often English: often Scots: aften, af'en, affen, oaffen, oaften adverb (2)adjective (1)Archaic equivalents: oftentimes. ofttimes. frequently or repeatedly; much of the timequite frequentlyat intervalsin more than half the instances“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012archaic repeated; frequent“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Often was pronounced with a t -sound until the 17th century, when a pronunciation without the came to predominate in the speech of the educated, in both North America and Great Britain, and the earlier pronunciation fell into disfavor. Common use of a spelling pronunciation has since restored the for many speakers, and today and [or and] exist side by side. Although it is still sometimes criticized, often with a is now so widely heard from educated speakers that it has become fully standard once again.Origin of often1First recorded in 1300–50; Middle English oftin, variant before vowels of ofte ; oftOrigin of often1C14: variant of oft before vowels and hsee every now and then (so often); more often than not.Often, frequently, generally, usually refer to experiences that are customary. Often and frequently may be used interchangeably in most cases, but often implies numerous repetitions and, sometimes, regularity of recurrence: We often go there; frequently suggests especially repetition at comparatively short intervals: It happens frequently. Generally refers to place and means universally: It is generally understood. He is generally liked; but it is often used as a colloquial substitute for usually. In this sense, generally, like usually, refers to time, and means in numerous instances. Generally, however, extends in range from the merely numerous to a majority of possible instances; whereas usually means practically always: The train is generally on time. We usually have hot summers.Examples have not been reviewed.His childhood home burned to the ground, leaving just a basketball court he had often played on for hours in its destructive wake.He appeared weary in the field, often bending over with his hands on his knees and feeling his left hamstring at one stage in the afternoon.His only involvement for the rest of the day was marshalling his team in the field, often hunched over with hands on knees.Pallets dropped by parachute often land far from the people who need it.As they so often claim, I didn’t leave the party, the party left me.generally much regularly repeatedly usually Ofteloften as notBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrssttuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC

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