How do you know when an action is right and when it is wrong

When we see something happening, or act upon something ourselves, we do so via an unspoken rule set that we learn throughout our lives. Several influential sources interact with and teach us in a myriad of different ways which culminate in what we can call a basic set of principles that serve as a karmic guideline for whatever situation we may find ourselves in. Whilst no-one can be prepared for everything the accuracy of an individuals judgement is primarily governed by the factors I will outline.

The interaction between friends, family and acquaintances all build up a repertoire that serves to aid us in how to act in most situations; at the very least they prepare us as well as possible for unconventional or uncommon scenarios. If an action is repeated enough times then it will start to become acceptable among the group of participants, regardless of whether or not it is on a more comprehensive scale. For example, a family may perform an culturally unacceptable act, such as picking your nose, in private but not in public, despite doing the action it demonstrates an understanding of its status in the given society. Additionally to this are the specific laws and regulations of the country we live in as well as some of the more culturally holistic understandings that are taught and enforced by several different authority figures at any given time; these are often set in stone and not up for interpretation, such as the international agreement that murder is wrong. Another factor to consider is the varying psychological and emotional connections we have with any given individual; depending on the empathy, or apathy, we possess for someone our opinion, and therefore our judgement, of that person and their actions will change. For example, we may consider theft to be an offence worthy of incarceration but we may struggle to be the arbiter if the thief in question is a member of our family. This could even, to an extent, apply to ourselves in the sense that we could derive some benevolence, or just an excuse, for some actions that we may consider wrong when performed by others. Lastly, and perhaps the most variable factor, is the