



Discovering time phrases

Which combinations of the words in the left column combine with the times of day across the top to make standard English phrases?

Put a small tick, cross or question mark in the top right of each cell of this table. See the examples in the first and last cells.

	morning	afternoon	evening	night
last	x			
yesterday				
this				
tomorrow				
in the				
next				
at				✓ 20.13



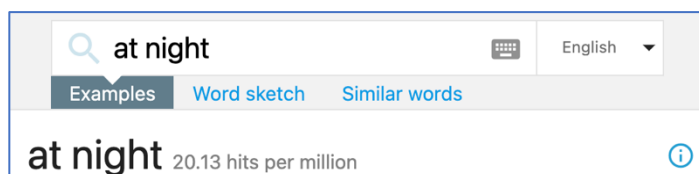
*Brno Astronomical
Clock (2010)*



After you have marked each cell, you can check how frequently these combinations are used in general English by doing some searches in SKELL.

Go to the webpage, <https://skell.sketchengine.eu>, and type each combination into the search window. Copy the number of hits per million into your table. Here is an example of a search.

As you complete the table, you see how general usage matches your ticks, crosses and question



marks. Because some combinations will be more frequent than you expected, look at the example sentences to see how the combinations are used.



Reflection: Give some thought now to what you learnt about time phrases. And to what you learnt about discovering features of English by looking at multiple examples. In what other situations could you make search likes these?