Sketch Engine Tutorial Screencasts

All videos are accessible also on our YouTube channel.

Please note some parts of the user interface were updated since creating these tutorials and look slightly different now.

Basics: making concordances

This video demonstrates the concordancer function in the Sketch Engine.

Basics: thinning your concordance

In this tutorial, you will learn how to thin down your concordance lines. This is a useful function for people who require a smaller, more manageable number of concordance lines in order to complete in depth language analysis.

Basics: Moving around the concordance

In this very quick video, you will learn how to scroll through the pages of your concordance lines. You will also learn how to skip to specific pages of concordance lines.

This is a useful tool if you want to scroll through you concordance results to look for language patterns in the corpus.

Expanding the context of the Key Word In Context (KWIC)

In this video, you will see how the default settings in the Sketch Engine offer less than 10 words of context to the left and to the right of the Key Word In Context (KWIC).

This video shows you how you can expand context to the left and to the right of the KWIC.

This is a helpful trick if you need to look at more context to determine the meaning of a word in context.

Finding metadata for source documents in the Sketch Engine

In this video you will learn how to find out about the source documents contained in a corpus. You can click on particular hits in a concordance and find information such as the publication date, text type, word count. This can be useful when finding out about words that were used in particular decades, or in particular text types.

Using the Expert option: 'Context' in the Sketch Engine

You can use the Expert option: 'Context' to specify strings of tokens (be that words or punctuation) in the Sketch Engine. In this video, we use the words 'shake' (verb) and 'head' (noun).

The concordance lines show the verb 'shake' with 'head' occurring 2 tokens to the right. I also show how searching for the noun 'head' with the verb 'shake' two tokens to the left produced the same results.
Expert option: 'Context'. Example: a verb followed by any adjective. (Tastes delicious)

In this video, we use the expert options to do a search on a verb, followed by any adjective within a window of 3 tokens. The BNC listed 480 hits of this structure the the concordance included hits such as: it tastes delicious, it tastes very delicious, it tastes really very delicious, never tasted anything quite like it, it tastes hideously medicinal.

We can use this feature when we know the POS structures we want to look for, but can't quite think of any examples of it in our heads and need to query the corpus.

Expert option: 'Text types'

In this video you will learn what the Expert option: 'Text types' does and how you can use them to get the most our of your corpus.

You can use the Text type option to search for words within specific parts of a corpus, for example, just in the spoken or written parts. The corpus used in this example is the British National Corpus (BNC).

Brief overview of the Sketch Engine

Robyn Woodrow has created this video for Dr Christopher Shank at Bangor University, in response to Dr Shank's question about running the verb 'think' through the Sketch Engine.

Creating a corpus by uploading your data

There are many ways in which you can create a corpus using the Sketch Engine.

In this video you will see how you can create a corpus by uploading data files to the Sketch Engine.

Creating a corpus by crawling the internet using WebBootCaT

In this video you will see how quick and easy it is to create a corpus by web crawling the internet. Using WebBootCaT you can send 'seed terms' to the internet and it will retrieve web pages containing those seed terms.

You can also web crawl by specifying URLs but that isn't demo'd in this video.