

## Introduction

### Purpose of the Task:

The goal of this task is to find the **reference time** for each **time expression**.

### What is a time expression?

A time expression is a sequence of words that describe **time**. Some examples are **August 7 2017, last night, today, now...**

### What is a reference time?

- **A reference time is the time expression that helps us understand the exact time of another time expression.**
- For example, the reference time of **last year** is **2019**. When we see **last year** in a news article, we know it is **2018**, because we know this year is **2019**.

The cases when the publication time of the news is the reference time of the blue time expression:

- Case 1: **August 26, 2007** The huge forest fires that blazed across southern Greece on Friday and Saturday were stabilized for a few hours **today**.  
In this example, the reference time of **today** is the **publication time of the news, August 26, 2007**, because **they refer to the same time**.
- Case 2: **August 27, 2007** Fires continue to burn in Greece on **Monday** destroying everything in their path.  
In this example, the reference time of **Monday** is the **publication time of the news, August 27, 2007**. Because this Monday is the previous Monday before the news was published, not a random Monday. Our understanding of Monday **depends on** the time when the news was published.
- Case 3: **August 28, 2007** The game will be played on **September 3**.  
In this example, the reference time of **September 3** is the **publication time of the news, August 28, 2007**. Because this September 3 refers to September 3 2007, we know which year it is from August 28, 2007. Our understanding of September 3 **depends on** the time when the news was published.

The publication time of the news is **NOT** always the reference time of the blue time expression:

"TMZ.com" reports that police and witnesses say the accident occurred in Clearwater, Florida **around 7:30 p.m.** (eastern time) on **Sunday night** while Hogan was driving his Toyota Supra at a "very high rate of speed."

In this example, the reference time of **around 7:30 p.m** is **Sunday night**. Because this 7:30 is the 7:30 of Sunday night, not a random 7:30.

**NOT** all the time expressions need a reference time.

Here are the time expressions that do NOT need a reference time.

- **Absolute time expression**: a time expression that describes an **exact time** itself.
  - Examples: May 29 2019, August 1997, 2001, 1980s...
- **Duration**: a time expression that describes **a period of time**.
  - Examples: 2 years, 5 months, one-day...
- **Frequency**: a time expression that describes the **frequency**.
  - Examples: three times a week, each month, every hour...

### What do you need to do?

- You will see a short piece of news that has some words highlighted. The highlighted words are **time expressions**.
- You will need to first decide if the time expression needs a reference time, if the answer is yes, you will need to decide if the publication time of the news is the **reference time** of that time expression.

0. \${sentenceHTMLStr\_0}

\${questionHTMLStr\_0}

- ☐ \${possibleChoiceHTMLStr\_0\_0}
- ☐ \${possibleChoiceHTMLStr\_1\_0}
- ☐ \${possibleChoiceHTMLStr\_2\_0}
- ☐ \${possibleChoiceHTMLStr\_3\_0}
- ☐ \${possibleChoiceHTMLStr\_4\_0}