

# Snippet annotation - updated guidelines

Identify all the text spans that contain key pieces of the answer to a given question

## Instructions

**Your task is to identify all the text spans that contain key pieces of the answer to a given question.**

Text spans should contain a **single piece of information**, be **as short as possible** while **self-contained**, and **can not overlap**.

## Updated guidelines

Your task is to identify all the text spans that contain key pieces of the answer to a given question.

Text spans should contain a single piece of information, be as short as possible while self-contained, and can not overlap.

The task of text spans annotation is non-trivial and requires a thorough reading of both questions and the accompanying passages. While performing the task keep in mind that:

- An answer may be present in many different forms. It can be a short name, numerical value, or a longer explanation spread over several sentences. We want you to choose spans that are as short as possible while self-contained. Each chosen text span should make sense given the question, not necessarily as a standalone text.
- Several different answers may be given in one passage. We want you to choose all the answers as separate spans. If the context of the answer changes its meaning or makes it different from other selected spans, the context should be included in the span as well.
- Passages may contain noise in the form of links, and web page headlines. Try not to contain it in the spans, while remembering to keep spans self-contained.
- The answer may not be present in the passage. Don't select any span if you think that there is no information in the passage that could answer the question. However, we want you to select text spans that provide a partial answer even if full is not present.
- In the case of yes/no questions, it may be helpful to imagine how you would follow up the yes or no with some explanation and then find those pieces of information in the passage.
- In this task, we don't consider the problem of subjectivity of the statements in the passages. The text span that is obviously an opinion is as good as a text span that is perfectly objective.

We want to build your intuition about what is expected from you by providing you with a brief explanation of the problems that we want to solve with the collected data:

- Detecting unanswerability and partial answerability in questions given a passage → Given a question-passage pair we want to be able to say to what extent the question can be answered. Eventually, we also want to point out the missing pieces of information in the passage.
- Generating concise, informative answers grounded in statements from the passages → Given a question-passage pair we want to be able to detect the text spans that contain key pieces of information required to answer the question and generate the response by looking only at the question and the selected text spans.

#### The plan for data annotation

- We will release one batch containing 25-85 question-passage pairs for every worker every day for the upcoming two weeks. The amount of HITs released will differ between the workers every day, but the overall amount of assigned HITs will be almost the same for everyone.
- HITs in each batch contain questions about one specific topic. Even though questions are related, they should be treated and answered independently of each other.
- You'll have 24h to annotate your batch. We'll let you know here every time a new set of tasks is released.
- We will try to be available on Slack every day so that you can ask questions.
- After obtaining all the annotations from all the workers we will do a manual verification of a sample of submissions and grant the 3 top-performing workers with the bonus.
- We need one person to spend a few minutes with us tomorrow early in the day to verify that there are no technical issues with the released tasks.

We will release a new batch for everybody every day before 6 am EST. The HITs from each batch will be available for you for 3 days. However, if you manage to complete all HITs assigned to you within 24 hours (till 6 am EST the following day), you will be granted an additional bonus. We still want you to complete all the HITs from every batch assigned to you. If you failed to do so within 3 days, your HITs will be released for someone else in the group.

We are not expecting you to find anything in the passage. Going for the "no answer" option is perfectly fine. Basically, there are three options in this task: no answer, one span/multiple spans containing the answer, and one span/multiple spans that contain the partial answer. The third case is the most tricky. There, we are interested only in spans that actually contain a part of the answer but don't answer the question entirely (some information is still missing). It is not enough for the span to be somehow relevant, it needs to actually answer some part of the question. For example, if you have a question about how is a carrot cake made but the passage lists only ingredients. Ingredients are still a partial answer and they should be selected.

#### Context example

Question: *"How many words must a man type, if a man is to type words?"*. If the passage is *"It's good to type words. Words are useful. A man must type 100 words if a man is to type words."* the span would be *"100"*. If the passage is *"It's good to type words. Words are useful. A man must type 100 words if he is a dancer."* the span would be *"100 words if he is a dancer"*. But if

the passage is *"It's good to type words. Words are useful. A man must type 100 words if he is a dancer. A man must type 101 words is he is a writer."* the spans would be : *"100 words if he is a dancer"* and *"101 words is he is a writer"*.