**the end of**

‘The end of’ is a very frequent word combination (lexical bundle/3-gram) in English. Can you list at least three longer, commonly occurring phrases that include this bundle?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the end of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Let’s check your intuitions in a corpus.

1. Open CorpusMate: <https://corpusmate.com/>
2. In the query box type: *.\* the end of .\**  
   Do you understand what this query means (what you are searching for)?   
   Press the *Search* button.
3. Go over the concordance lines.   
   Are all frequent combinations there?
4. Go to the *Compare results* tab.   
   What are the three most frequent combinations?



Note the differences in their frequencies.

1. Click on the most frequent combination.  
   As before, study the concordance lines.

Are all frequent combinations there?

1. Go to the *Pattern finder* tab?  
   Study the most frequent word combinations.  
   What do most of the word combinations refer to? In other words, what is the semantic preference of the lexical bundle ‘at the end of’?
2. Go back to the concordance tab.  
   Switch to the Sentence view (top left corner).  
   Copy two sentences which illustrate best the semantic preference of this bundle.



1. Repeat the same analysis for the next two most frequent 5-grams (Steps 5 and 7).  
   Do you they differ in their semantic preferences?



1. Repeat the same analysis for the following lexical pattern: .\* the .\* end of .\*, but this time examine all 50 combinations and fill out the table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *prep.* | the | *adj./noun/det.* | end of the |

What is the semantic preference of this pattern?