



# ELI NEWS

English Language Institute University of Pittsburgh  
Parkvale Building, Room M13, 200 Meyran Ave  
Pittsburgh PA 15260

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elipitt@pitt.edu

ELI Activity:

## ELI Virtual Happy Hour

Friday, September 18 \* 3:00-4:00PM



You're invited to the ELI Intensive English Program's **Virtual Happy Hour!** Join us on Zoom on **Friday, September 18 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm** to celebrate the end of the week, the beginning of the weekend.

This is a great opportunity to meet ELI students from other levels, meet other ELI teachers, and practice English in a relaxed, social environment. Did you know that there are students from 13 different countries in the ELI this semester? We will chat, play games, mingle virtually in breakout rooms on Zoom, talk about your ideas for future ELI activities, and more! games. Please [register in advance](#) by 1:00 PM on Friday for this activity so that we can plan for the games. You will use the same password you use to access your ELI classes.

"Happy hour" is traditionally a period of the day from 4:00 to 6:00 pm when drinks are sold at reduced prices at restaurants and bars. For the ELI's Virtual Happy Hour, you can enjoy coffee, tea, juice, or whatever your favorite beverage is from the comfort of your own home. We hope you join us!

## Pick-up Your Free Pitt Face Masks

Show the Power of Pitt with your Pitt face masks! On **Wednesday, September 23**, stop by the ELI to pick-up your 2 free, reusable Pitt face masks. To allow for proper social distancing, masks will be distributed outside. Students can pick-up their masks in front of the Parkvale building on Forbes Avenue during their assigned time frames below:

**10 – 10:30 am**  
family names A – Alj

**10:30 – 11 am**  
family names Alm– E

**11 – 11:30 am**  
family names F – M

**11:30 – 12 pm**  
family names N – Z

When you pick-up your masks, please [take all necessary safety precautions](#). Wear your mask properly covering your nose and mouth. Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet away from others.

Thank you for showing your Pitt pride and keeping the Pitt Community safe.

## Talk Time Discussion Groups

By: Suzanne Meyer

### What is it?

In the Talk Time program, an English speaker meets with a group

of 4-5 ELI students for fun and informal communication.

Talk Time groups are not classes; they are a chance to join discussions in English. The Talk Time Leader may provide a topic or make sure that all group members have the chance to participate, but the goal is for everyone to take part.

### When do they meet?

Talk Time groups meet on a weekly basis for about an hour. Meeting times are at lunch or after classes (at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00P p.m.) on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. You can register for the day and time you want. All **Talk Time meetings are remote**.

### How can I register?

**You can register for Talk Time by email from Monday, September 14 to Thursday, September 17.** Send the following information to [elicomm@pitt.edu](mailto:elicomm@pitt.edu):

- 1) your full name
- 2) the best day for you to meet: Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday
- 3) the best time for you to meet: 12:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m.

You can also email [elicomm@pitt.edu](mailto:elicomm@pitt.edu) if you need more information or have questions about Talk Time.

## Conversation Partners

By: Suzanne Meyer

### What is it?

In the Conversation Partner program, an English speaker is paired with an international student studying at ELI's IEP

### What do volunteers do?

“Conversation Partners” meet once a week to get to know each other and to communicate. Partners may discuss each other’s languages and/or cultures, their fields of study, world events etc. The partners decide.

### When do they meet?

Conversation Partners meet for one hour each week. The time is up to the partners.

### Where do they meet?

The ELI follows the Pitt guidelines (operational postures), and in the Fall 2020 semester, the ELI supports virtual Conversation Partners meetings. Partners may use Zoom or another the platform, depending on their choice.

### How can I register?

**Online registration for conversation partners is open from September 10 – September 20.** Sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CLEPSignUp-FA20>. (Click on “Proceed to this site” to get to the survey from the first site.)

Please note: Late requests are not accepted. Only ELI students in the IEP are paired.

E-mail the Community Outreach Coordinator at [elicomm@pitt.edu](mailto:elicomm@pitt.edu) if you have questions or need more information about Conversation Partners.

## **New I-20’s for F1 students**

If you are a new F1 student in the ELI, you will receive an e-copy of your new I-20 from Stacy soon. This new copy of the I-20 shows that you have registered for classes and are living in the US legally. This is the document that proves that you have enrolled in school, so you must have it for your records. Usually, the I-20 must be a paper copy, but SEVP is allowing schools to issue e-copies during the COVID-19 shutdown. When the

ELI opens again, you should request a paper copy of this document, as well. Please be sure to check your Pitt email every day for instructions on how to access your new I-20.

## **ELI Final Exam Schedule Fall 2020**

<b>Tuesday, November 17</b>	<b>Thursday, November 19</b>	<b>Friday, November 20</b>
<b>Speaking</b> 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	<b>Listening</b> 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	<b>Reading</b> 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
<b>Writing</b> 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	<b>Grammar</b> 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	

ELI Closing Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 23 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

## **Student Advisor Office Hours**

Please remember that Stacy Ranson, your Student Advisor, can help you with questions about your registration and classes, academic issues, letters of recommendation, and personal issues, as well. Feel free to email her at [sar72@pitt.edu](mailto:sar72@pitt.edu) any time. She is also available by appointment for Zoom video chats. Please email Stacy if you would like to speak by Zoom during her office hour. If you cannot meet during office hours, other arrangements can be made.

### **Stacy’s office hours are:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
12:00 pm-1:00 pm

## **ELI Virtual Office Hours**

Do you have a question for the Main Office, but want to speak to a person?

Email [ELIpitt@pitt.edu](mailto:ELIpitt@pitt.edu) to schedule a Zoom meeting with Jean Linder, the

Administrative Assistant, during her Virtual Office Hours. Students can schedule 15-minute slots on Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. to discuss questions about submitting important documents, transcripts, general ELI questions, and more. Please submit meeting requests no later than 2:00 p.m. the day before. Friday sessions will be “drop-in,” meaning that you do not need to make a reservation.

Virtual Office Hours begin Tuesday, September 15. The first Drop-In session is on Friday, September 18: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/98102090044> (password: ELIpitt)

## **Drive-In Movie Night**



If you or someone you know has a car and you want to experience a part of American culture, you should check out the City of Pittsburgh’s FREE “[Drive-In Movie Nights](#)” this summer.

Normally in the summer, the City of Pittsburgh puts up big movie screens in its parks and invites people to bring a blanket, sit on the grass, and enjoy a movie in the park for free. This summer, because of COVID-19, that is not possible, so the City is offering “Drive-In Movie Nights” instead. A drive-in theater is a type of outdoor theater in which a movie is shown on a screen in a very large outdoors area where people can drive their car in, park, and enjoy the movie.

Drive-in movie theaters were very popular in the US in the 1940s to 1960s. Wikipedia reports that drive-in theaters currently only exist in the US, but a few did exist briefly in Australia and Iran. While there are currently very few remaining drive-

in theaters in the US, parking lots and open areas are being adapted to become drive-in theaters because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Pittsburgh is offering drive-in movies each Saturday at 8 pm at different locations. Movies are free, but **advance tickets are required**. Keep checking the [website](#) and the City of Pittsburgh's [Special Events page on Facebook](#) to find out what movies are playing and when tickets for the next movie will become available.

The last movie in this series is [Men in Black: International](#) (PG-13) on Saturday, September 19. Tickets available for purchase on September 17.

## F1 Students and End-of-Term Grace Period

The Department of Homeland Security requires students to complete all levels of the ELI program in order to receive the 60-day grace period following the completion of study. This means that if you complete level 6 at the ELI, you will have 60 days after your last day of study to remain in the U.S.

If you complete study at the ELI before taking level 6, you will have a two-week grace period after your final day of class. This means that you will need to leave the U.S. within 2 weeks of your last day of study if you do not complete level 6.

Please note that the grace period is different for students who transfer to a new program. If you transfer to a new program at any time, you must begin study at the first available term for the new program. You are permitted to be out of school for up to 5 months before beginning the first available term of your new program, however. Please see Stacy if you have questions about these policies.

## Probation at the ELI

As you know, consistent attendance, homework, and participation in classroom activities are all important for successful language learning. If you do not attend classes regularly and do the assigned work, your progress may be slow, and your grades may suffer.

In addition, students who do not make a good effort in their work will be put on probation. Students on probation must improve their effort during the probation term, or they may be expelled from the ELI. Sponsors will be notified of probation, as well. There are three ways to be put on probation at the ELI:

1. Having failing final grades in two or more classes
2. Having over 8 absences in two or more classes
3. Having over 15 absences in one or more classes

If you had poor grades and/or attendance last term, you will receive a probation letter. If you are sponsored, your sponsor will be notified that you are on probation, as well. If you have any questions about the probation policy at the ELI, please see Stacy.

## Title IX Policy

Title IX is a U.S. law that gives you the right to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University, have the University investigate what happened, and have your complaint resolved.

Sexual misconduct is sexual contact that you do not want:

- Someone speaking to you in a sexual way or asking you for sex when you aren't interested.
- Someone forcing you to have sexual contact.
- Relationship violence: Spouse/partner speaking to you or treating you in an abusive or violent way.

- Stalking: Someone repeatedly following or threatening you, including by phone/text/email/mail/social media.

You can report sexual misconduct to ELI officials or to the police. The ELI will help you report the issue to the University. Please note: If you report an issue to an ELI staff or faculty member, the ELI is required to report the issue to the University Title IX office. The ELI cannot maintain complete confidentiality. In other words, if you tell any teacher or staff member in the ELI, they must report it to the university. If you want to speak to a confidential advisor, the ELI can help you find a counselor at the University Counseling Center. In almost all cases, this counselor will not inform other people about what you tell them.

University Counseling Center  
119 University Place  
Nordenberg Hall  
412-648-7930

If you experience any type of sexual misconduct, harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, please talk to the ELI Student Advisor or an ELI teacher immediately.

## Quote Corner

“All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” – J. R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*, and linguistics teacher

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

SOUND OFF: What are your dreams? What would you like to accomplish today, this month, this year? What gives you the greatest joy to do?

## Joke of the Week

This week's joke is courtesy of [RedTricycle.com](#). It is a play on words.

Question: What did one plate say to the other plate?

Answer: Dinner is on me!

## Traffic and Safety Tips



photo courtesy of @Pitt

Oakland is among the busiest business districts in Pennsylvania and the second most populated neighborhood in Pittsburgh. With all of the hustle and bustle of a busy business district comes increased traffic from both vehicles and pedestrians (people walking) and increased safety concerns. For your safety, please review the general safety tips for pedestrians provided by the Pitt police:

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Keep alert at all times. Don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. This is where drivers expect to see people walking (pedestrians).
- Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic, then wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.

- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach you to make sure you are seen.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright clothing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots.

For more safety tips, visit [www.police.pitt.edu/resources/pedestrian-safety-tips](http://www.police.pitt.edu/resources/pedestrian-safety-tips). Please note that these tips apply to any Pittsburgh neighborhood.

## Happening at Pitt

Your weekly round-up of events happening with the University of Pittsburgh.

**Center for Latin American Studies Cinema:** The CLAS will begin presenting their [Latin American Film Series](#) on Thursday, September 17. This year's series is curated by Graduate School of International Affairs student Luciana Lemos. Topics vary but include gender issues, race and ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean, reflections on the tensions between parental expectations and staying true to yourself, plus more. The films will be screened once a month, online, followed by a discussion with the actors, producers, directors, subject experts, and/or faculty. Please note that you should register for each film individually.

**Stress Free Zone Events:** [Pitt's Student Affairs Stress Free Zone](#) is proud to present their Fall 2020 programming to help you reduce stress in your mind and body. On Mondays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. and Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. you can join the [Mindful Moment](#) program, which includes mindfulness practices and meditations. Each session is 30 minutes but the meditation portion is 15-20 minutes. On Mondays and Tuesdays at 7

p.m. and Fridays at 12 p.m. you can join the Stress Free Zone's [Yoga class](#). All levels welcome, including no experience. Cameras are preferred on so that the instructor can provide assistance, but it is not required.

**Let's Talk Drop-In Consultations:** Pitt's University Counseling Center is offering digital drop-in sessions with clinicians for anyone who needs to talk or who wants to learn more about what UCC can offer. Consultations are 10-15 minutes. [Let's Talk Drop-In Consultations](#) are available Monday-Friday. Please register for the day and time convenient for you.

**Experience America Lunch and Learn: Mr. Rogers:** Mr. Fred Rogers is a Pittsburgh icon. Join the Office of International Services for their [Experience America Lunch and Learn: Mr. Rogers](#) and learn all about Mr. Rogers' career and how he changed public television and interactions with young children forever. Wednesday, September 23 at 12:00 p.m.

## Happening in Pittsburgh

Your weekly round-up of events happening in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. While the ELI strives to provide accurate information, due to the changeable nature of COVID-19, please double-check event pages for latest updates.

**RADical Days:** The Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD for short) has invested in Allegheny County's quality of life for over 25 years, providing financial support for libraries, parks, arts and culture, sports, public transit, and more. Over 106 diverse organizations are funded by RAD. Starting September 14, you can join the [free RADical Days celebrations](#). Enjoy the arts and culture for free, virtually or in person. Virtual events include Pittsburgh Savoyards' virtual production of the famous Gilbert

and Sullivan musical *HMS Pinafore*, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, and the Sharpsburg Community Library. In-person events include the Carnegie Science Center, Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, and the National Aviary. Check out the [RADical Days Calendar](#) for a full listing of both virtual and in-person events. If you attend in-person events, please remember to wear a clean mask over your nose and mouth, practice physical distancing, and utilize hand sanitizer or hand washing often.

**Yoga and Dance Events in Schenley Plaza:** [Schenley Plaza has Yoga and Dance events](#) coming up. Every Monday at 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. UPMC Health Plan presents Yoga in Schenley Plaza. Please pre-register, and wear your mask properly until you are on your mat. If you leave your mat for any reason, put your mask back on properly. Practice physical distancing and sanitize your hands and mat. UPMC Health Plan also presents Dance and Be Fit with Roland Ford at the Schenley Plaza Tent on Friday, September 18 and September 25 at 7 p.m. Classes are free and all levels are welcome. Mask wearing required until or unless you are dancing. Social distancing required at all times (6 feet apart) and avoid touching your face. Participants are encouraged to launder towels and clothes immediately after these events.

**#LovePGH See & Do Guide Fall/Winter 2020:** VisitPittsburgh puts together a great brochure full of the hottest things to see and do in Pittsburgh each season. You can view or download the [#LovePGH See & Do Guide Fall/Winter 2020](#) from issuu. Whether you love science, nature, history, or art, VisitPittsburgh has something to offer you. If you post on social media, be sure to use the #LovePGH and tag the ELI. Remember to wear your face covering and bring hand sanitizer.

**Doors Open Pittsburgh:** Want to explore Pittsburgh's incredible architecture and heritage? Join [Doors Open Pittsburgh](#) for their annual event on October 3 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. to explore the stories, people, and architecture of Pittsburgh from the inside out. You'll gain a unique perspective on what makes Pittsburgh such an iconic city because Doors Open Pittsburgh gives you access to places not normally available to the average person. Remember to wear a mask and practice physical distancing whenever possible. [Annual Event Tickets](#) are \$12 for General Admission with special pricing for children and senior citizens. [Insider Tours](#) require a separate ticket for each tour. Choose from: Antique Skyscraper Bird's Eye Views, Black & Ghost Tour, In the Steps of Suffragists, or Two Doughboy.

**Zoom-Ba with Kimmy:** Former ELI Instructor [Kimmy Rehak](#) hosts [Zumba](#) classes over Zoom, so she re-named her classes Zoom-ba. Zumba is a type of aerobic workout that combines fitness and dance parties using intervals of low and high intensity moves that burn calories, tone muscles, and enhances balance/flexibility. Kimmy Rehak has been a Zumba instructor since 2012, and you know her music selections are going to be good because she's also a DJ for [Sound Smorgasbord](#). Upcoming morning classes from 8:00-8:30 a.m.: September 22, 24, and 29. Upcoming evening classes from 5:00-6:00 p.m.: September 21, 23, 28 and 30. Zoom ID: 790552070. Password: 015143.

**Free Movies at Hartwood Acres:** Hartwood Acres Park presents their [Family and Date-Night Drive-In Movie Series](#). Gates open at 6:00 p.m. and close when the movie starts. This is a free event, but it has a capacity of 300 vehicles and is first-come, first-served. Ekernally Yours Popcorn (do you get the play on words in their name?) will be there selling popcorn, candy and

more for the Family Drive-In Movie Series. Order online at [Ekernallyyours.com](#) and you will get a text when your order is ready for pick-up. This Saturday, September 19, they are showing *Toy Story 4*. Next Saturday, September 26 they will show *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil* (sequel to *Maleficent*). The final show, *Secret Life of Pets 2*, is on Saturday, October 3. The Date-Night Drive-In Movie Series is on Friday nights. The last two showings will be *La La Land* on September 18 and *Grease* (a famous musical set in high school during the 1950's) on October 2.

## What is Constitution Day?

On September 17, 1787, [America's Founding Fathers](#) signed the [U.S. Constitution](#) into law. The Constitution and the Amendments that followed define America's federal laws. It is called "the highest law of the land."

The Constitution established the three branches of American government: legislative, judicial, and executive. Each has specific responsibilities and powers, but is checked by the other two. The Founding Fathers also built into the Constitution the ability to create Amendments. Since then, the Constitution has been Amended 27 times, and includes the Bill of Rights, which features fundamental American rights such as the Freedom of Religion and the Freedom of Speech, as well as legal protections for citizens and states.

[The National Constitution Center](#) is hosting a variety of virtual educational events for Constitution Day. The [National Archives](#) also has some fantastic resources as well.