



# ELI NEWS

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

10-04-20, Volume 63 Issue 5  
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ELI IEP Activity:

## Stay-At-Home Scavenger Hunt Win Prizes!

Oct. 3 \* 7:00-8:00 pm



Image source: loquiz.com

Join the ELI this Saturday, October 3, from 7 to 8 pm on Zoom for our first ever scavenger hunt! A scavenger hunt is a game, typically played outdoors, in which participants have to collect a number of random and miscellaneous objects. Due to social distancing safety requirements, we'll be doing our scavenger hunt from the comfort of our homes. Here's how the game will work. At the beginning of the event, individuals are given a list of items that they need to find in their homes. Each item is worth a different point value. For example, the list might say: red pen (1 points), something that was made in India (3 points), something with polka dots (2 points), a kitchen tool that begins with the letter F (1 point), etc. Participants are then given a specific amount of time to hunt through their homes and

collect as many items as possible. Prizes will be awarded for the first person to complete the list, most points, most items, and most interesting item.

If we have enough students participate, we can do this in pairs to make it even more fun! This is a great way to practice English, learn some new vocabulary, and maybe even get some exercise moving quickly in your home. After we award the prizes, we'll have some time to hang out and chat, too. Please [register in advance](#) for this activity. If you have any questions, contact [Rob Mucklo](#).

## What Can You Do with a Student ID Card?

Did you know that your Pitt student ID card gives you free access to [transportation, the student computing labs, and libraries](#)? With your valid Pitt ID you can also get discounted rates on museum visits too! Here are some of the resources available to you when you carry your Pitt student ID.

**Museums:** Free admission at the Andy Warhol Museum, The Mattress Factory, the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History and other museums in Pittsburgh.

**Transportation:** Free use of Pittsburgh city buses as well as University of Pittsburgh shuttles around campus. The Pittsburgh city train (called "the T" by locals) is free with your Pitt ID too.

**Other Fun Stuff:** Free admission to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, as well as free rides on the Duquesne Incline and more!

Please remember to check each location for hours and COVID-19 restrictions. When leaving your home, wear a mask and use hand sanitizer.

## Pick-up Your Free Pitt Face Masks

If you could not pick up your Pitt Face Masks on September 23, you have another chance to get your masks! On **Thursday, October 8**, stop by the ELI to pick-up your 2 free, reusable Pitt face masks. If you have already have your 2 free Pitt face masks, you cannot pick-up masks on this date. The ELI only has enough masks so that each student receives two.

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 frame below:

3:30 – 4 pm	A – E
4 – 4:30 pm	F - 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.



## Daily Covid-19 Health Check

Anytime you will be on Pitt's campus you will need to fill out the Daily Covid-19 Health Check before you leave your home. It does not matter how long or short the visit, the University of Pittsburgh requires you to fill it out before stepping foot onto campus. Please do it the same day you plan to visit campus. If you have any questions, you can email [ELIpitt@pitt.edu](mailto:ELIpitt@pitt.edu).

## New ELI-themed Digital Backgrounds

On Monday, September 28, the ELI Main Office sent out an email to students giving them access to three all-new [ELI-themed digital backgrounds](#) for Zoom, phones, tablets, and computers. They are free and easy to download and use. Now you can show friends, family, and classmates your ELI Pitt Pride with every virtual call, class, or meeting. For tips and tricks on how to change Zoom backgrounds, check out [Zoom's Help Center](#).

## 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)

## Midterm Grade Reports

On Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, your teachers will submit your midterm grades. Ask your teachers whether you have any tests, homework or graded class activities that are incomplete and that you can make up before that date. Remember, not all graded activities can be made up. Although these are not the final grades, they do show you how well you are doing so far in each class. Teachers also write specific comments for each student in each class, which tell you exactly what you do well and what you need to work a little harder on. Finally, if there is something you don't understand about the grade, please email your teacher or request a Zoom meeting outside of class.

You will receive a link to a Box folder that contains a digital copy of your midterm grade report on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you

receive very low grades or have many absences, you will be given an appointment with the Student Advisor to discuss any problems you might have and get advice about how to improve.

Finally, remember that we are all facing new and challenging circumstances in many aspects of our lives. Studying English in a completely online environment is not easy. Teachers and students alike are all trying to balance our responsibilities at home with the expectations of our classes. We are doing the best we can and learning as much as possible. Don't be too hard on yourself if your grades are not as high as they might usually be. Focus on what you have learned and the progress you are making.



[www.facebook.com/PittELI](http://www.facebook.com/PittELI)

## ELI Joke of the Week

Submitted by: Abdulrahman Alqahtani

This week's joke is a play on words.

Question: Why is Six scared of Seven?

Answer: Because Seven ate Nine.

## Quote Corner

"I want to touch the heart of the world and make it smile." – Charles de Lint, Canadian author and musician

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

SOUND OFF: What makes you smile? How often do you try to make others smile? What is something small that you can do today to make someone happier?



## Happening at Pitt

Your weekly round-up of events from the University of Pittsburgh.

### Thursday, October 1

- [An Art Exhibit on Mental Health and Creativity](#): A virtual student art exhibit aimed at presenting artistic representations of mental health and illness. Available October 1-11. Presented by the Center for Creativity and Pitt NAMI. Trigger/Content Warning: may contain emotionally difficult content and depictions of mental health journeys.
- [Make Your Own 'Zine](#): A 'zine is a self-published magazine-type publication. They are focused on art, expression, community, and spreading knowledge. Learn how to make one in this workshop, Creativity on Fire: Making Zines, presented by the Center for Creativity and The Center for African American Poetry and Poetics. 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- [Panther Change-Up](#): A Be Fit Pitt lunchtime work-out featuring a variety of instructors and types of work-outs. This 30-minute exercise class requires no equipment and is suitable for all experience levels. 12:30-1:00 p.m.
- [Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment](#): Take a break to find and develop your inner peace from 2:00-2:30 p.m.
- [Introduction to Adobe Photoshop](#): This introductory-level course will teach you how to edit your photographs for professional results. 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- [Let's Talk Drop-In Consultations](#): University Counseling Center clinicians are here to help you learn and develop skills for mental and emotional health. Let's Talk Drop-In Sessions are designed to help students learn more about UCC's services and get help with a specific issue. 4:00-5:00 p.m.

### Friday, October 2

- [Awakening Morning Yoga](#): A Be Fit Pitt class taught by certified yoga instructor Jesse Bueno and the Be Fit Pitt Team. Align your mind, body and breath to start the day mentally and physically grounded. Appropriate for all fitness and skill levels, as no special equipment is needed and modifications to poses are included. 7:15-8:00 a.m.
- [Rice &... Series Virtual Lunch with Chef Rafael Vencio](#): If you started at the ELI during the pandemic, chances are you haven't had the opportunity to see the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning Nationality Rooms. Each of these rooms represents a world culture, and is decorated in that culture's style. Currently, the [Nationality Room Tours](#) are virtual-only, as a COVID-19 precaution. In an effort to develop cultural community, the Nationality Rooms present the "Rice &..." Series, which showcases the way rice is used all over the world. Food brings people together, and rice is a staple food in many cultures. Chef Vencio will demonstrate how to cook fried rice with pork belly and eggplant with a side of mango salad. You must register for this event. 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- [Connect Virtual Happy Hour](#): Relax with any kind of beverage you choose and hang out on Zoom with fellow Pitt students, faculty, and staff from 4:00-5:00 p.m. This is a great chance to meet new faces and practice English outside of the classroom.
- [Celebration of Flavors \(Latinx Heritage Month\)](#): Indulge your cooking curiosity with this cooking demonstration and cook-along, presented by the Department of Medicine and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Learn how to make authentic Latin American food from an expert chef. Participants will be provided an ingredients package that will be available for pick-up the day before and/or the

day of the event. These details and more will be emailed to participants only after registration. Contact Anastasia White ([whiteaj2@upmc.edu](mailto:whiteaj2@upmc.edu)) with any questions. Celebration of Flavors begins at 6:00 p.m. (just in time to check out the Connect Virtual Happy Hour listed above before joining).

### Saturday, October 3

- [JackBox Game Night](#): Join the Pitt Program Council and gather up a team of up to 8 people to play in JackBox Game Night. Sign up for a 1-hour time slot (all participants must register individually, even if they are on the same team) and get ready to play. Winners are entered into a lottery to win a prize.

## University of Pittsburgh "Run Like Hail" Virtual 5K Run

Love running, or just want to challenge yourself? Consider joining the University of Pittsburgh's [Virtual 5K "Run Like Hail" marathon](#) the weekend of October 16-18. You must register by October 1. The entry fee is \$35 and proceeds support the Student-Athlete Success Fund. Your race packet will include: customized race bib, curated playlist, Pitt Athletics car decal, customized phone wallpaper and your Race T-shirt. Prizes for the top finishers are: headphones, Pitt branded workout gear, and gift cards. You can use #RunLikeHail to document your race and connect with other runners over social media.

## Pitt Students Offered Halloween Special Effects Make-up Masterclass

The Pitt Program Council is proud to present Pitt students (including ELI students) with the opportunity to take a [Halloween-themed Special](#)

[Effects Make-up Masterclass](#) with Hollywood make-up artist Kim Dunn (she also owns Oui Cosmetics). Learn all the tips, tricks, and techniques of applying special effects (abbreviated SFX) make-up to create zombie and skeleton looks as well as apply prosthetics (fake body parts such as noses and ears).

What's even more amazing than the cool effects you'll learn? This class is FREE. Many make-up masterclasses cost hundreds of dollars, so this is a rare and special opportunity. You must pre-register by 5:00 p.m. on October 1. The first 50 students who sign up get a free SFX make-up kit. All information, including pick-ups for kits and the Zoom link for the class, will be emailed closer to the event date.

This event takes place on October 23 from 9:00-11:00 p.m. The Zoom waiting room will open at 8:45 p.m. It's a fantastic chance to learn new skills from a professional, as well as practice English with new faces.

## **Pitt Master of Laws for Foreign-Trained Lawyers Program (LLM)**

The University of Pittsburgh offers a Master of Laws (LLM) degree that provides lawyers who have already completed a law degree outside the U.S. with training in common law legal tradition and the U.S. legal system. This is a one-year program with an average of 15 students each year. It is offered by the School of Law's Center for International Legal Education. For acceptance to this program, TOEFL and IELTS scores are waived for students who have completed all classes at ELI Level 5 or 6 with at least 85% final grades in each class. Applicants must also have a recommendation from the ELI Student Advisor. See Stacy if you have questions, or find out more about getting your LLM at Pitt Law

School by visiting the LLM program website at <http://law.pitt.edu/llm>, or call 412-648-7023.

## **Pitt's Financial Responsibility Agreement**

You may have noticed that you have had to agree to the Financial Responsibility Agreement when you signed in to your Pitt email or any other Pitt online service recently. This agreement includes your promise to pay your Pitt tuition, or have a sponsor pay it, and gives details about the penalties for late payment of fees and tuition. The agreement also says that **Pitt will use your Pitt email account to contact you**, and you are responsible for checking and reading all emails sent to your Pitt account. In addition, you are required to keep the university updated on your current address and contact information. You can update your personal information at <https://payments.pitt.edu/edit-your-personal-information/>. Please see Stacy if you have any questions.

## **Unpaid Tuition**

If you or your sponsor have not paid your ELI tuition for the XXX term, you are past the deadline for payment. You can check your tuition account by logging in to [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu) and clicking PittPay. Please note that students with unpaid tuition cannot receive copies of final grades, letters of recommendation, or any other documents from the ELI. There are three ways to pay your tuition.

- eCheck: Free online transfer from a US bank account to your Pitt account.
- FlyWire: If you are using an international bank account, you can use [FlyWire](#) to pay tuition.
- Credit cards: Online only at [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu)—you may not use a

credit card at Thackeray Hall. There is an additional 2.75% fee for using a credit card.

## **Free Flu Shots at the Student Health Center**

Experts recommend that this year, due to COVID-19, you [get your flu shot](#) and get it early, if possible.

The Student Health Center has changed the way they are doing flu shots this year. [Free flu shots](#) will be by appointment only at the Student Health Service Wellness Center, Monday-Friday. You must schedule it online or over the phone at least one day in advance. As always, give your Pitt email. You will receive an appointment reminder email the night before the appointment. It will contain: appointment date and time, link to the Vaccine Information Statement for you to review, self-check-in instructions, and pre-visit form instructions. It is very important that you follow the directions in the email, or you will not be able to receive your flu shot. **You MUST complete the self-check-in and pre-visit forms BEFORE 9:00 a.m. on your scheduled appointment date.** This is because the flu shots will be administered by the nurse outside of the building, where there is no computer.

**What:** Free flu shots

**Where:** Office of Student Health Service, Nordenberg Hall - Wellness Center, 119 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

**Schedule by Phone:** 412-383-1800

**Schedule Online:** On [my.pitt.edu](http://my.pitt.edu) search for Student Health Portal. Select "Student Health Service Student Portal *Pitt-Pittsburgh*." You may be asked to log in a second time. You can find detailed instructions on how to schedule an appointment online through Student Affairs "[Using Online Student Health Portal](#)."

**Why:** Flu shots are an effective way to reduce the risks associated with the flu season. It is not a guarantee

that you will not get the flu, but it will protect you from the worst symptoms and health risks.

You can also get a flu shot at your doctor's office, most pharmacies, and clinics. Some pharmacies are even offering bonuses such as coupons for getting your flu shot. Always consult your doctor or pharmacist before getting any shots or taking any supplements or over the counter medicines. **Alert the person administering the flu shot if you have an egg allergy, as this will change the type of flu vaccine you are able to receive.**

Stay healthy out there, and keep your mask up over your mouth and nose at all times.

## More Fun Things to Do

To find out what fun activities are planned for the ELI and/or offered by the University, check out these websites:

- [ELI Activities Calendar online](#)
- [Pitt Events Calendar](#)
- [Pitt Program Council](#)
- [Pitt Student Organizations and Clubs](#)
- [Pitt Global Ties](#)
- [Pitt International Community Facebook Group](#)
- [Pitt Global Hub](#)
- [Pitt Center for Creativity](#)
- [Pitt Fitness Centers and Gyms](#)
- [Be Fit Pitt \(exercise and fitness classes\)](#)
  - [Virtual Wellness Workshops](#) from the Pitt Counseling Center
  - [The Stress Free Zone](#)

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to use English outside of the classroom and have fun, too!

## Transfer Process

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must contact Stacy to complete the transfer. You must provide a copy

of the acceptance letter and the transfer form from the new school. You may transfer at any time during the term, but you must complete this process to remain in legal status. Remember that if you complete your final term of study at level 6 at the ELI, you have a 60-day grace period. During that time, you may stay in the U.S. without studying, and you may request a transfer at any time during that 60-day period. If you do not complete level 6, you have a 2-week grace period, and you must request a transfer within that time.

If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of your grace period, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please contact Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

## Letters of Recommendation

Many of you will need to ask Stacy for a letter of recommendation if you are applying to other institutions. There are two important things to remember when making a request for a letter. The first factor is that letters of recommendation are based on your performance at the ELI. Stacy uses your grade reports as a resource for information about your performance. If you miss a lot of classes and don't do your work, your letter of recommendation will not be strong. In addition, please remember that the ELI usually does not consider students below ELI Level 4 to be ready for academic work. The ELI can provide letters confirming your attendance and work ethic if you are below Level 5, but for academic readiness recommendations, you should be in Level 5 or above.

The second important factor is time. Please remember that it takes approximately one week to receive a letter of recommendation. Stacy has many letters to write, and she cannot provide them immediately

when you ask for them. **This means that if you need a letter before the semester break in November, you should request it by Monday, November 16. If you request a letter after this date, or during the break, you will have to wait until after the next term begins.** Please plan ahead when making your requests.

## ELI Final Exam Schedule Fall 2020

Tuesday, November 17	Thursday, November 19	Friday, November 20
<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.

*Follow the ELI on Instagram  
@eli.pitt*

