IPE Activity

Virtual Jackbox Video Game Party!
Friday, June 4 @ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Do you like playing interactive, exciting games with friends? If so, come join us for an ELI Jackbox Game Party! Jackbox Games are online party video games that are played via a smartphone or digital device. These aren’t typical video games! These games are both fun and funny, and will get us talking and keep us laughing.

Don’t spend another Friday evening bored or watching TV! Join Pitt student and ELI Activities Intern Michael Whitaker on Zoom on Friday, June 4, to have some fun, hang out with your ELI classmates, and use your English outside of the classroom. We’ll start at 7:00 p.m., but you can join us at any time between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. and stay for one game, two games, or the entire hour.

You must register in advance for this activity. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Rob Mucklo.

No Classes Monday

In honor of Memorial Day, the ELI and the University of Pittsburgh will be closed on Monday, May 31. Government offices and most banks will also be closed. Buses follow the weekend/holiday schedule. Restaurants, stores and other businesses in the service industry are usually open.

What Is Memorial Day?

Monday, May 31, is Memorial Day, a national holiday held every year on the last Monday in May. Americans celebrate Memorial Day to honor all of the people who have died in military service. In memory of these individuals, there is a national moment of remembrance at 3:00 p.m. local time. In addition, schools, the government, and many businesses are closed on Memorial Day.

Other activities on Memorial Day include public parades and ceremonies. Some people visit military cemeteries and monuments to honor those who have died in military service. Also, because of the time of year when Memorial Day occurs, it is considered to be the unofficial start of summer. Many people have barbeques, go on picnics, and do outdoor activities with family and friends.

See the VisitPittsburgh website for more information about Memorial Day activities and events happening in Pittsburgh.

Pitt Emergency Alert System

By Stacy Ranson

It is very important that ELI students know when there is an emergency regarding the University of Pittsburgh. For this reason, all ELI students must sign up for the Emergency Notification System that is provided by the University of Pittsburgh. This system will contact you by phone, email, or text, to tell you when there is an emergency regarding the University. When there is an emergency, you should follow the directions from the system notification.

To subscribe to the Pitt Emergency Notification System:

• Log in to my.pitt.edu
• Click on “My Resources” at the top of the page
• Click on “Emergency Notification”
• Enter your phone number and check whether you would like a voice message or text
• Click “Submit”

It is very easy to sign up and only takes a minute. Please sign up today!

Follow Us on Twitter!
Follow us on Twitter at @PITTELI

Conversation Partners

What are Conversation Partners?
The Culture and Language Exchange Program pairs ELI IEP
students with English speaking “Conversation Partners” for informal communication.

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.

At this time, all Conversation Partners will meet virtually on Zoom while the University of Pittsburgh is under Guarded, Elevated, or High Risk Operational Postures. In person meetings may become available when conditions allow for it.

How can I register?
Online registration for conversation partners is open from Thursday, May 27 to Sunday, June 6.
Please note:

• Late requests are not accepted.
• This opportunity is only available for students in the ELI’s Intensive English Program.

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

Talk Time Conversation Groups

What is Talk Time?
In the Talk Time program, an English speaker meets with a small group of ELI students for fun and informal group discussions. 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 join the conversation.

When do they meet?
Talk Time groups are scheduled a weekly basis for about an hour. Meeting times are during lunch or after ELI classes end on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays. You can register for the day and time you want.

At this time, all Talk Time groups will meet virtually on Zoom while the University of Pittsburgh is under Guarded, Elevated, or High Risk Operational Postures. In person meetings may become available when conditions allow for it.

How can I register?
You can register for Talk Time by email from Thursday, May 27 to Thursday, June 3. Use your Pitt email and send the following information to elicomm@pitt.edu.

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

You can also email elicomm@pitt.edu if you need more information or have questions about Talk Time.

Talk Time groups start meeting the week after registration, beginning June 7.

Write for the ELI News

The ELI loves to publish articles by its students. Would you like to share your thoughts or an essay you wrote? Would you like to write about your American experience? Would you like to teach us something about your culture? If so, please email your submissions to us at ELI.pitt@pitt.edu. This is a good chance to improve your English and have your writing published. All levels are welcome!

ELI Storytellers Series

One of the benefits of studying at the ELI is the chance to meet and to learn from people with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ELI Storytellers Series gives students an opportunity to share their stories with classmates. Speakers give a 10-15 minute presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The talks are scheduled during the 12:00 p.m. lunch break. The series is open to all ELI students, and it is a great way to get extra speaking and listening practice outside of class. Your English doesn’t have to be perfect! This is a great opportunity to challenge yourself and share your story with ELI friends, teachers and classmates.

How about you? Do you have an interest or a skill you would like to tell us about? Have you accomplished something special or done something fun and exciting? Would you like to share information about your culture or hometown? What is your story? If you are interested in giving a short presentation, email Heather at hlm44@pitt.edu.

ELI Absence Policy

For the Summer 2021 term, attendance will be taken each day in class on Zoom. You must attend each class during the Zoom class period to be counted present. Please note that the ELI attendance policy states that “there is no such thing as an excused absence” in the ELI. Even if you are sick, the absence must be counted as an absence according to the ELI rules.

According to the ELI absence policy, if you miss over 8 classes, you will not receive a certificate of
attendance at the end of the term. If you miss over 12, you may not be invited back to the ELI next term. If you are an F-1 student and you miss over 15 classes, your visa may be terminated. Please see the online Student Handbook for more information on the ELI attendance policy. In addition, please remember that sponsored students have attendance rules from their sponsors, as well.

Remember that if you do not do the work in your classes and the homework, this will affect your grade. If you want to make progress with your language learning, it is important that you attend class on time, regularly, with your homework complete. Please contact Stacy if you have any questions or concerns about attendance in the ELI.

**Health Insurance Requirements**

The ELI requires all students to show proof of health insurance coverage. The ELI does not recommend or offer specific health insurance plans. Students may choose any hospital insurance plan they like, and the ELI will request a copy of the insurance card with the student’s name. Students who do not provide proof of health insurance by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2021 will not be permitted to register for classes. Please email Stacy if you have any questions or need help finding insurance. Do not submit the proof of insurance through email. Please submit it using this secure link: [https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhzt01f7d2d/](https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhzt01f7d2d/)

**How to Get a Pitt ID Remotely**

Panther Central, like the rest of the University of Pittsburgh, has changed how they operate due to COVID-19. To get a Pitt ID from the comfort and safety of your own home, follow these directions:

1) Make sure your Pitt email is active and you are using it.
2) Go to the Panther Central website (pc.pitt.edu) and click “Panther Card.”
3) Read through the “Panther Card Self Service Photo Upload” and click “Online Photo Submission.” (They also have great guidelines on acceptable photos and a “Frequently Asked Questions” section.) Read the instructions. They’ve included photo requirements and some tips for getting good photos for your ID card. Then take your picture.
4) When you have a photo that you think fits the requirements, submit it by clicking “Online Photo Submission” on that same page. You should use your Pitt email address to do this so that Panther Central can verify your identity faster.
5) Send an email to panthercentral@pitt.edu from your Pitt email account to alert them that you have submitted a photo and need a Pitt ID card. Include your Peoplesoft Number (the 7-digit number on your Pitt ID) and a current, valid mailing address.

You will be notified by Panther Central when your card is in the mail. Due to the COVID-19 situation, Panther Central asks that you allow 1-2 weeks for this process. If you need to re-take your photo because it does not meet the requirements, this process could take longer. Students may also visit Panther Central in person to get their Pitt ID. All Covid precautions must be followed. Panther Central is located in Litchfield Towers to the left of the Thackeray Avenue entrance on 5th Avenue (walk up the stairs, enter the building, look to the left).

Please note that students studying remotely in their home countries are not eligible to receive a Pitt ID.

**I-94 Numbers Required**

Each student must give the ELI Main Office his or her I-94 admission number by 4:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 28, 2021. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:

1. Go to: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home)
2. Click “Get Most Recent I-94”
3. Click on “Consent and Continue”
4. Enter information exactly as it appears on your visa.
5. Submit by 4:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 28 using this secure link: [https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhzt01f7d2d/](https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhzt01f7d2d/)

Email the ELI Main Office at elipitt@pitt.edu if you have any questions. Do not email I-94 forms. Use the link provided to submit them.

**Paying Tuition Summer 2021**

Tuition is charged to your Pitt account typically within 24 hours of registering. To avoid late fees, you should pay your tuition for the Summer 2021 term by June 16, 2021. Check your account by logging in to my.pitt.edu and clicking PittPay. There are several ways to pay your tuition:

- **eCheck:** Free online transfer from a US bank account to your Pitt account.
- **Payment plan:** $45 fee, see [http://payments.pitt.edu/payment-plans/](http://payments.pitt.edu/payment-plans/)
- **Credit cards:** online only at my.pitt.edu. There is an additional 2.75% fee for using a credit card.
- **International students paying with a foreign bank account may use Flywire.**
Happening at Pitt

A selection of highlights to check out on Pitt’s Events Calendar that offer opportunities to practice your English skills and perhaps make new friends and meet new faces.

Thursday, May 27

Our Brilliance (Underrepresented Postdoctoral Scholars): 3:00-4:00 p.m. Learn about and explore the accomplishments and experiences of underrepresented people at Pitt and academia in general. As May is Asian and Pacific Islander Month, this panel will focus on them. The panel will finish with a question-and-answer period. Registration required.

Monday, March 31

University and ELI Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, June 1

Referring to Chaplaincy in Serious Illness (Evidence and Practice): 8:00-9:00 a.m. If you’re interested in the intersection of healthcare and religion, this lecture may interest you. The focus will be on spiritual care services during times of serious illness and hospice. Dial in at 412-447-5295 for audio only, or join on MS Teams (ID: 395351932#).

Wednesday, June 2

Art’s Work in the Age of Biotechnology: This online exhibition of art-science works is available online 24 hours a day. It opened on March 1 and will run through December 5. Check out the Events Calendar for a full description of the exhibit and related programming content.

Happening in Pittsburgh

A selection of interesting events in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area that provide opportunities for fun and new ways to practice your English skills. Take all Covid precautions and double check event information before you leave your home.

Ongoing Events:

Summer Concert Series: Craving the return of live music? You’re in luck. Allegheny County’s Summer Concert Series makes a triumphant return to the stage after the pandemic cancelled it last year. Friday nights you can enjoy live band performances at the South Park Amphitheater, and on Sunday nights at the Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater. All shows are free, with reserved seating up front for fully vaccinated folks. All audience members will need to social distance and non- and partially-vaccinated folks must wear a mask. Click the link for more information and the concert schedule. Food trucks and Hop Farm Brewing Company will be on site of all concerts starting at 6:00 p.m. ELI students must follow US Government laws regarding alcohol. You may be asked to present ID when purchasing alcohol.

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Name That Beaver Scavenger Hunt: May 1-June 30. Now that the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium are reopened to the public, you can add some extra fun to your zoo trip with this scavenger hunt. As you walk through the zoo, there are 5 riddles to solve. Figure out the winning word, submit it using the form in the link provided, and win a prize. See the link for more details, and sign up for the Zoo’s newsletter to stay updated on fun Zoo news and events.

Thursday, May 27

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Open Air: starts at 8:15 p.m. weather allowing (no rain dates). Watch Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre performers leap and swirl through the open air across a mobile stage at Flagstaff Hill in Oakland. Dancers will perform selections from Lacrimosa, Boléro, The Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake, and Flower Festival. Reservations are required and different types of seating are available.

Northside Farmer’s Market: 3:00-7:00 p.m. Located at Allegheny Commons East, East Ohio St and Cedar Ave, support local vendors and purchase locally grown foods. Debit/credit cards accepted. Take Covid precautions.

Friday, May 28

Riverview Park Trail Work Day: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join a group of volunteers lead by the Friends of Riverview Park to clean up the trails inside the park. Possible chores include picking up litter, trimming plants to make the pathways walkable, planting, moving broken branches, and more. Tools and gloves provided. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes such as sneakers or work boots and bring your own

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water. You will probably get dirty, so choose your clothes carefully. Please also wear long sleeves and pants, tuck your pants into your socks, and wear bug repellent that also repels ticks. Take all Covid precautions.

**International Grocery Stores in Pittsburgh & Surrounding Areas**

Some of the foods that are easy to find in your home country may be hard to locate here in the States, especially in a smaller city like Pittsburgh. Giant Eagle Market District locations, Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods Markets do an excellent job of stocking international ingredients, but they don’t always have everything you need. Here’s a list of international markets in Pittsburgh that you may find helpful when preparing your favorite meals.

**Eastern European:**

- **Jmart International Market** (412-344-1605) in Dormont is located at 1432 Potomac Avenue, just a quick walk down the street from the T-stop. They carry the basics, plus imported foods and gift items from Europe and have a 4 & ½ star rating on Yelp.

- **Nataliya European Food** (412-421-2380) is located at 4370 Murray Avenue in Greenfield, near the 61D bus stop. They carry an excellent variety of perishable and non-perishable Eastern European foods and have a 5 star rating on Yelp.

- **Blue Monkey Tea** (412-422-1606) is located near the 61C & B and 64 bus stops (Forbes and Shady) at 5872 Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill. The owner Margaret specializes in tea, but also carries coffees, spices, herbs, jams, honeys and more. She also teaches tea classes and hosts lovely Facebook events.

**Asian:**

- **Panda Supermarket** (412-230-8902) is a new addition to Squirrel Hill, located at 5846 Forbes Avenue near the Squirrel Hill branch of the Carnegie Library. Any of the 61 buses drop off at Forbes & Murray, the closest intersection. Panda Supermarket has a 4 star Yelp rating, and shoppers can find snacks, drinks, and non-perishables as well as a small variety of seasonal Asian produce. Check in with Yelp and get a discount!

- **Tokyo Japanese Food Store** (412-661-3777) is a short ride away on the 75 Ellsworth bus at the little plaza on the corner of Ellsworth & College Avenues. They stock a variety of snacks, drinks, rice, fresh produce and even gifts and Japanese dvds and tv shows as well as ready-made bentoboxes and food. There is a $10 minimum for debit/credit cards, and they rate 4 stars on Yelp.

- **Lotus Food Company** (412-281-3050) in the Strip District is located at 1649 Penn Avenue, just down the street from Penzeys Spices. They have a 4 star review on Yelp, and carry one of the area’s largest selections of Asian food. They close early, though, so check the time before you stop in! Also nearby is **New Sambok Oriental Foods**, which is a highly-rated Korean food stand and market.

**Middle Eastern:**

- **Labad’s** (412-261-0419) is a family-owned and run grocery and restaurant in one. They offer a wide variety of non-perishable items, ready-made food prepared by the family’s mother, and the owner, William, has an iconic mustache and makes fantastic gyros. The items and food are primarily Mediterranean.

- **Salim’s Middle Eastern Food Store** (412-621-8110) is located at 4705 Centre Avenue and specializes in deli foods, but they also carry ready-made foods and most reviews call the service fast and friendly.

- **Sultan Bey** (412-688-8433) has a 4 ½ star Yelp rating and is located in Oakland at 4601 Centre Avenue near **Bombay Food Market** (details in next section). Sultan Bey carries produce, non-perishables, and desserts.

**Indian:**

- **Bombay Food Market** (412-687-7100) located at 4605 Centre Avenue and **Kohl’s Indian Imports** (412-621-1800) located at 319 South Craig Street are both here in Oakland. They both have 3 ½ star ratings on Yelp primarily due to lack of service, but both locations get rave reviews on their samosas and other food.

If we missed anything good, let us know so that we can include it in the future.

**ELI Joke of the Week**

This week’s family-friendly funny is courtesy of **Mommy Poppins**. Feel free to submit your own jokes to the news by sending them to ELIpitt@pitt.edu by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Question: Did you hear about the race between the lettuce and the tomato?

Response: The lettuce was “ahead” but the tomato was trying to “catch up.”

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