



ELI NEWS

English Language Institute • University of Pittsburgh
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11-20-18, Volume 57 Issue 12
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Thanksgiving Break



Remember that all classes are **cancelled** for the Thanksgiving holiday! The ELI will be closed Thursday, November 22-Friday, and November 23.

The ELI Main Office will remain open on Wednesday November 21. Classes will be held as normal on Monday, November 26. Have a great break!

Black Friday

Black Friday is the name given to the shopping day after Thanksgiving. It was originally called Black Friday because so many people went out to shop that it caused accidents and sometimes violence. On Black Friday, retailers drop the prices on thousands of products to signal the start of the Christmas gift-buying season.

Cyber Monday

You probably have heard about the shopping madness that takes place on Black Friday, but did you know there's another major shopping day after Thanksgiving? It's called "Cyber Monday," and it takes place the Monday after Thanksgiving. Cyber Monday was created to encourage people to shop online. On Cyber Monday, retailers are known to give significant discounts if customers purchase their merchandise online. Businesses all over the world participate in Cyber Monday, including ones located in Japan, Germany, and Argentina. If you want to take advantage of the deals after Thanksgiving, but don't want to go outside to the crowded malls, you should try to shop online on Cyber Monday.

ELI Activity:

Volunteering with CHS

Join the ELI as we go volunteer with Community Human Services, an organization whose mission is to empower "individuals and families to live in stable housing, connect to community resources, build relationships, and access quality food."

On Saturday, December 1, we will meet at the ELI at 9:10 am and take the bus to the Strip district together. For this activity, we will be putting together toiletry kits for people who use the food pantry at CHS. A toiletry kit is what you usually pack when you travel. It includes essentials such as shampoo, soap, and a toothbrush.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu by 4:30 pm on Monday, November 26. For more information about Community Human Services, visit <https://chscorp.org/>.

After this activity, we will take the bus to nearby Lawrenceville, where there is a cookie tour event. Read the article in this week's ELI News about this event. If you don't want to participate in the cookie tour, Ece will show you where to get the bus back to Oakland after we finish volunteering.

Pre-registration for Next Term

If you are planning to continue in the ELI and you have not seen Stacy, you must visit her during her office hours before December 3 to sign up for classes. Remember, if you want to participate in classes next term, you must pre-register. If you want to take a vacation term, you must pre-register for that, too. If you want to return to the ELI next semester and you have not talked to Stacy yet, you must see her soon.



In the US, Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, kicking off the so-called Holiday Season. The origins of Thanksgiving (commonly taught to children) dates back to early 1600s, when a group of English pilgrims in present-day Massachusetts shared a feast with Native Americans to celebrate a plentiful harvest. The exact date of Thanksgiving varied from state to state until, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln finally declared it a national holiday.

What happens on Thanksgiving?

On Thanksgiving, people in the US gather with their family and friends to eat, drink, and watch television, usually sports. Major cities also hold massive parades, complete with floats, marching bands and giant inflatable balloons. The most famous parade is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Why do Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving?

No-one knows for sure why turkey became the staple of Thanksgiving dinner, although, it is likely to be because the flightless bird is native to the North Americas.

Whatever the history of Thanksgiving, whether it's a legal holiday or not, I'm sure we all agree that it's nice to take a break and give thanks for all of the blessings and good fortune that we have. Happy Thanksgiving!



www.facebook.com/PittELI

ELI Activity:

ELI NIGHT Please Sign Up!



Get ready for one of the most highly anticipated activities in the ELI! ELI Night will be held on **Wednesday,**

November 28 from 5-8 pm at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, located at 605 Morewood Avenue, which is between North Oakland and Shadyside.

ELI Night is a potluck dinner for ELI students and teachers, Talk Time leaders, conversation partners, and their families and friends. At a potluck dinner, everyone brings a dish to share. The dish should be enough to feed you and your guests and approximately 6-8 others. There is always a diverse selection of delicious food to select from. You will not leave hungry!

Please let us know if you are planning to attend. You can do this online at <https://tinyurl.com/ENFall2018>. Let us know if you are coming and how many guests (homestay family members, conversation partners, Talk Time leaders, friends) will be coming with you. **Please sign up by Monday, November 26.** We want to make sure that we have enough tables and chairs for everyone!

You should plan to arrive at the church at 5 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. If you arrive after this time, you will miss out on a great deal of delicious food! In addition, if you are late, many people might already be too full to try your tasty dishes! If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.

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ELI Activity:

The Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour

The Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour is an annual event in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Lawrenceville. During this 3-day event, many businesses offer free cookie samples to attract customers to their businesses. A variety of stores participate in this event, and it is a great way to get to know a new neighborhood and maybe do a little shopping! Next Pittsburgh summed it up perfectly in a 2014 feature: "Equal parts cookie crawl and buy local movement, the free, family-friendly event showcases Lawrenceville's thriving Butler Street business district."

The Cookie Tour began as an open house at Jay Design Soaps & Gifts in 1997. An open house is an event where people are encouraged to visit a home or place of business to learn more about it. Due to the collaborative spirit of other business owners in Lawrenceville, this event at a single business grew to include more than a dozen businesses. In the year 2000, someone had the brilliant idea to add cookies to this open house and the event became the The Joy of Cookies Cookie Tour.

This event lasts three days, but we will participate on **Saturday, December 1.** Before the Cookie Tour, some of us will already be in the nearby Strip District, volunteering with Community Human Services. Read the article in this week's ELI News about this activity. After we are done volunteering at **12 pm**, we will go directly to Lawrenceville from the Strip District. If you want to join us for only the Cookie Tour, please let Ece know at ecu4@pitt.edu by **Monday, November 26** and indicate whether you will meet us in the Strip District or in Lawrenceville.

You can find more information about the Cookie Tour at <http://lvpg.com/cookie tour2018/>.

Evaluations of Your Teachers

by Christine O'Neill

As your ELI teachers evaluate you, you have an opportunity to evaluate your teachers. Your feedback is really very important! All evaluations are now online. Please go to your Pitt email. The Office of Evaluations and Measurements (OMET) will send you an email for each teacher you have. Just click on the link and follow the instructions. You may also access each evaluation in CourseWeb. Each evaluation should take you between 5 to 15 minutes.

Research indicates that people are more likely to do online surveys if they have negative responses. However, we really hope to hear from all of you. We hope to get all feedback –positive as well as negative and in the middle too. Also, be sure to read the items in the survey carefully to be certain you are providing accurate feedback. Sometimes on surveys on a scale of 1 to 5, a "1" is very good; other times it is not good. Please, your feedback helps us to be better. We can't do it without you!

The surveys became available on Thursday, November 15. Please respond by Thursday, November 29. The survey will not be available after November 29. Please be sure to respond before that day. If you have any questions, ask any or all of your teachers.

ELI Idiom of the Week

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression whose meaning might not always be clear from the words that make it up.

"Blessing in disguise"

It refers to something that at first appears to be bad or unlucky but is actually good.

For example: "Jamal was upset about having to start a new school but it turned out to be a **blessing in disguise**. His new school is a much better fit and he's made lots of friends."