



ELI NEWS

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

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ELI Activity:

Let's Make Valentines! Today!



Valentine's Day is today, Thursday, February 14, and the ELI would like to help you celebrate this holiday.

Get together with your classmates and make Valentine's cards, paper flowers, and more! You can make these items for your friends and loved ones. Wouldn't it be sweet to brighten someone's day on Valentine's Day?

The ELI will provide all the materials you need. All you have to do is show up, be creative, and have fun! There will be some valentine cards in the Vault throughout the day, but most of the materials will be in **M15 from 1:00-1:45 pm**. You can bring your lunch! After 3 pm, Ece will take all the remaining materials to The Vault, and you can continue working on your valentines after classes until 4:45 pm.

English in the Classroom

This is just a reminder that it is a huge benefit for your language learning if you speak English as much as possible. Some of you are still tempted to speak your native languages to your friends. This is understandable because it is much easier and more comfortable. Please remember, though, that when you are in an ELI classroom, your teachers and your classmates only want to hear your English, even if it isn't quite accurate yet. Your teachers cannot be flexible with this requirement; they have to insist that you utilize your English.

Midterm Grade Reports

by Heather McNaught

You will receive a copy of your midterm grades report tomorrow, Friday, February 15th, in your Listening class. If you are absent or do not have Listening class on Friday afternoon, you may pick up your midterm grade report in the ELI Main Office on Monday the 18th. Although these are not your final grades, they do show you how well you are doing in each class. Teachers also write specific comments for each student in each class, which tell them exactly what you do well and what they need to work a little harder on. Finally, if there is something you don't understand about the grade, please talk directly to your teacher. 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.

If you still have questions about grades, read p. 11 in the ELI Student Handbook!

Please Note: Students with unpaid tuition and fees on their account will not receive a grade report until they have paid.

ELI Activity:

The Phantom of the Opera Deadline Today!

Join the ELI on Thursday, **February 28**, as we go to see the award-winning musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. A musical is a performance that is similar to a theater play, in which characters are portrayed by actors, but with the addition of singing and dancing. The performance is at the Benedum Center downtown and runs from 7:30 pm to approximately 10 pm.

On the day of the show, we will meet at the ELI at **6:00 pm**. We are meeting early because The Benedum Center has implemented new security procedures, and there might be a line to enter when we arrive. **Please be aware that the following items are prohibited: bags larger than 16X16X8 (inches), outside food and beverages, laptops/tablets, containers of any kind including cans and bottles.** These policies are not flexible. If you try to violate this policy, you will not be allowed to enter the Benedum, and you will miss the show. Plan ahead on that day and leave these items in your locker at the ELI.

This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. You are welcome to bring guests who are not ELI students, but children under the age of 3 years are not allowed. This show is recommended for children ages 8 and up.

The main office began collecting money on Monday, February 4. You must pay by **4:30 pm today, February 14**. Discounted tickets are \$31 each. **Please bring the exact amount.** There are no refunds. If you have any questions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.



ELI Activity:

Heinz History Center

There is more to Pittsburgh than meets the eye. Join the ELI on a trip to the Heinz History Center on **Saturday, February 23**, and discover the history of Western Pennsylvania. The Heinz History Center is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania and contains 250 years of Pittsburgh history, from the French and Indian War to the city's most recent sports history. This is not a typical museum; the exhibits are interactive and there is something for everyone to enjoy.

In addition to the regular exhibits, there are two special exhibits. One is called "Mister Roger's Neighborhood." Mister Rogers was a children's TV host who was a strong advocate for public television and stressed the importance of kindness. At the Heinz History Center, we will see the TV set that was used in the show as well as learn more about Mister Rogers. The other special exhibit is called "Destination Moon". In this exhibit, you can learn about the various challenges and outcomes of the American space program as well as the poignant moments that the astronauts experienced during the Apollo 11 mission.

Admission is free with a valid Pitt student ID. Regular admission is \$16. You can pay for your admission at the museum. On Saturday, February 23, we will meet in the ELI lobby **at 10:30 am** and take the bus downtown together.

Keeping Classrooms Clean

We try to create a nice environment for our ELI students, and part of that is providing neat and tidy classrooms for you. Please help us to keep our classrooms clean by throwing away any garbage in the appropriate trash cans. Please don't leave any water bottles, cups, papers, or any other trash on desks, on the floor, or in the hallway after you have finished with them. There are trashcans in every classroom and in each hallway-please use them.

ELI Activity:

Ice Skating

Join the ELI on **Saturday, February 16**, as we go downtown to ice skate at the MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink at PPG Place. If think you are not capable of ice skating, that's nonsense! Learning how to ice skate is not a complicated process. As you approach the rink, you might feel nervous, but you can take small steps and hold on to the handrail until you gain the coordination you need to skate confidently.

We'll meet in The Vault (the ELI's student lounge) at 10:30 am and take the bus downtown together. Admission is \$10, and skate rental is an additional \$4 (plus tax). You should also bring at least two quarters (25-cent coins) so that you can put your shoes and other items in a locker.

The weather forecast for this Saturday is partly sunny with a high of 35° F (2° C). This temperature might seem cold, but you will warm up quickly while ice skating! The good news is there is a very small chance of rain or a blizzard!

You do not need to pre-register for this activity. You can pay for your own admission and skate rental when we arrive at the rink. This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students.

For more information about the Rink, visit www.ppgplace.com/directory/the-rink/

Sponsorship Letters

If you have an official sponsorship letter from your government (SACM or CBIE, for example) you must submit it to the ELI Main Office. Students must give an updated sponsor letter to the ELI and to the Student Payment Center each term. If you have any questions about this, please visit the ELI Main Office.

All sponsored students must also complete an information sheet in the ELI Main Office. The ELI must contact sponsors throughout the term, and we require updated information about the student's sponsor and advisor. Students must complete this form each semester and when their sponsor information changes.

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 1:00 lunch break or after classes at 4:00. 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 your 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.

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.

ELI Activity:

Language Music Club Different day next week!



Do you enjoy listening to music in English? Do you want to learn more vocabulary, practice grammar, and improve your listening and speaking skills? If you answered yes to these questions, then the Language Music Club is for you! The main objective of this club is to have fun practicing English in a musical environment!

The meetings of the Language Music Club include a variety of activities, including focusing on the grammar and vocabulary used in lyrics as well as practicing pronunciation and fluency. We also have discussions on what these songs mean. These activities are not too challenging, so your motivation to learn English will increase rather than diminish.

The Language Music Club usually meets every Tuesday from 1-1:45 pm. However, **next week, we will meet on Thursday instead of Tuesday. On Thursday, February 21**, we will meet in our usual room, M15. This room is next to the main office. Feel free to bring your lunch! We have had three meetings so far, but you can drop in anytime!

No musical talent is required. All you need is a positive attitude and a desire to improve your English! This activity is open to all ELI students, including CCC students. For more information or to make song suggestions, please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu.



Coffee Talk on Fridays!

4:00 – 6:00 pm Panera
(3800 Forbes Ave.)

ELI Activity:

ELI Trip to Fallingwater and Ohiopyle

Join the ELI for a special trip to the Laurel Highlands, where we will visit Frank Lloyd Wright's world-famous Fallingwater house and the beautiful Ohiopyle State Park. We will depart on **Saturday, March 30, at 8:45 am** and return **the same day** around **8 pm**. The cost is \$50 per student and includes roundtrip transportation in a University van and a tour of the Fallingwater house. It takes approximately 2 hours to reach Fallingwater from the ELI.

When we arrive at Fallingwater, we will have a 1-hour tour of the house. A guided tour is the only way to access the inside of the house. This house is unique because it was built on top of a waterfall. This kind of architecture is far from mediocre! After the tour, we will have some time to explore the beautiful grounds and take pictures of the outside of the house. Then we will take a short drive to Ohiopyle State Park, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch that you must pack yourself before leaving for the trip (not included in the cost). After enjoying the nature of Ohiopyle, we will return to Pittsburgh.

Currently this trip is only open to ELI students studying in the Intensive English Program or the Evening Class. Please contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you are a CCC student or if you are an ELI student who wants to bring a guest. If there is still space available after February 21, CCC students and guests of ELI students will be able to join the trip. Children under the age of 18 are not allowed.

The main office began collecting money for this trip on Monday, February 11. You must pay the main office by **4:30 pm on Thursday, February 21**. Please bring the exact amount (cash only). There are no refunds. Contact Ece at ecu4@pitt.edu if you have any questions.



Follow Us on Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter at
[@UPITT_ELI](https://twitter.com/UPITT_ELI)

ELI Writing Contest

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (3,4,5,6), and the winners will be announced at the ELI Closing Ceremony.

If you have written a good composition in your writing class this semester, you should tell your writing teacher that you would like to enter it in the writing contest. Your teacher will then submit your paper for you. Your entry will be read anonymously by judges (your name will be removed from the paper, so they won't know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 4 at 12:00 pm.

If you are in level 4, 5, or 6, your entry must be an essay that you wrote in class this semester. If you are in level 3, your entry can be a shorter composition, even a single paragraph. Each student can enter only one composition.

Good luck!

Travelers Along the Silk Roads: 10th Century to the Present

The Hillman Library (3960 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260) ground floor is showcasing a map of the Silk Road from its Eastern terminus in the Chinese city of Xian to its western terminus in Constantinople. They also display the late-14th century *Catalan Atlas*, the most detailed world map of its time, showing key places along and major figures who traveled the overland route of the Silk Road.

The exhibit continues on the second floor of Hillman Library in five thematic display cases: *Horses and Dynasties: Cartography and Painting in China, 10th-14th Centuries*; *Alexander the Great, Kublai Khan, and Marco Polo: Confluences of Power and Exchange in Assia*; *Musical Encounters in the Deserts and Mountains of Central Asia*; *Explorations in Turkestan: Aurel Stein and Bamiyan*; and *New World Exploitation and the China Trade with Europe*.

Come and learn about the Silk Roads. Free and open to the public during Hillman Library hours.

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 stop by her office in M22 during any of her office hours. You can also email her at sar72@pitt.edu.

Stacy's office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
1:00 pm-1:45 pm

English Language Institute Final Exam Schedule Spring 2019

The ELI gives final exams at the end of the term. These exams are worth 30% of the final grade for each class. There are no excused absences for finals. The ELI does not give early final exams or make up exams. Role Play finals in Speaking are graded with another Speaking teacher. Writing finals are graded by a teacher from another class with input from your teacher.

Please note the following schedule and plan to be present for the finals.

Fri, April 5	Mon, April 8	Tues, April 9
Writing final 10:00am- 12:00pm	Grammar final 10:00am- 12:00pm	Reading final 10:00am- 12:00pm
Speaking final 1:00pm- 3:00pm	Listening final 2:00pm- 4:00pm	



ELI Surveys Tell the ELI What You Think!

by Heather McNaught

The ELI is very happy that you have chosen to come here to study. We always want to improve each student's experience in our program and to make our program even better. Therefore, we hope you will participate in three different surveys and give the ELI your ideas and opinions!

The ELI has three different surveys, each one focused on a different aspect of the program. These are the surveys and a little of information about each one.

Teaching Survey

This survey asks you about your experience with each of your teachers this semester. You can provide feedback about different aspects of your teacher's instruction in the classroom on this survey.

When: February 11-15

How to complete: A teacher will come to your class and give you instructions.

Curriculum Survey

This survey is about the content of each of your courses. It includes questions about the textbook and classroom activities.

When: During the last week of classes

How to complete: Write your answers on the survey paper your teacher gives you in class.

ELI Program Survey

The ELI Program Survey asks for your feedback on the ELI as an institute. The survey contains questions about the classrooms and facilities, the activities and what you like/dislike about the ELI.

When: Week 10-12

How to complete: You can complete this survey online through the university's Qualtrics survey system. Your responses will be anonymous; we at ELI will see the total responses but we will not know how each individual student answered.

The ELI uses the information from these surveys to make very important decisions that affect the future of the ELI. Your feedback is a crucial part of this process. The ELI strongly encourages you to take a few minutes to complete each of these surveys.

Please ask the front office staff, Stacy or one of your teachers if you have any questions.

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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.

*“A Leopard can't
change his spots”*

This phrase is used to say that people cannot change their basic personalities, habits, etc

www.merriam-webster.com

For example: “Peter has never eaten Chinese food before, and he's not going to start now! He doesn't like to try anything new, and a **leopard can't change his spots!**”

Mark your calendars! Upcoming ELI Activities



Saturday, February 16:

Ice Skating

Wednesday, February 20:

Toastmasters Meeting

Thursday, February 21: Language Music Club

Saturday, February 23: Heinz History Center

Thursday, February 28: Phantom of the Opera

Sunday, March 3: Ring It On! Handbell Workshop

Wednesday, March 6: Board Games with APO

Saturday, March 23: ELI Night

Friday, March 29: Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30: ELI Trip to Fallingwater