



# ELI NEWS

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

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## The ELI News



Welcome to Fall Semester 2020! This term we will

do lots of fun activities so that you can practice English, make friends, and have fun outside of the classroom.

The *ELI News* is a weekly newsletter published by the ELI. The *ELI News* contains important information and announcements that you'll need. You might also do activities with the *ELI News* in your Reading classes and perhaps other classes as well.

While the University is operating remotely, students will receive The *ELI News* in their Pitt email on Thursday mornings. The *ELI News* can also be found on the [ELI's website](#).

## NameCoach at Pitt

On August 6 Pitt officials announced that NameCoach is available to all Pitt faculty, staff, and students. This includes students at the ELI. NameCoach allows you to record yourself saying your name, which helps others to know how to pronounce it. Your NameCoach recording can easily be shared in your email signature (set this up under "Settings" or by clicking on the gear symbol), LinkedIn, and social media.

There's more to NameCoach than just recording your name so that

others know how to say it. Instructors can add it to Canvas, and you can also specify which personal gender pronouns (he, she, or they) you prefer.

Go to [my.pitt.edu](https://my.pitt.edu) to get started, and search for NameCoach. You can also read more about it in [Pittwire](#) (a University of Pittsburgh newsletter) and on the [Pitt Information Technology website](#).

## Talk Time Conversation Groups

Suzanne Meyer

Talk Time is a conversation group that meets for one hour each week. Each group includes an English speaker and a group of about 4-5 ELI students. Joining a Talk Time conversation group is a great way to practice listening and speaking as well as to learn about culture!

Look in next week's *ELI News* for more information about Talk Time as well as details about how to register for a Talk Time group!

## Conversation Partners

Suzanne Meyer

The Conversation Partners program pairs ELI IEP students with English speakers. It's a great chance for each person to make a new friend and learn about another culture in English. Your partner may want to practice your language, too. Look for more details about registering for a conversation partner in next week's *ELI News*!

## ELI/IEP Activity: ELI Activities This Fall

Welcome to Fall 2020 in the ELI! Even though there are social distancing policies and procedures that we must follow, we will still plan weekly virtual social and cultural activities to give you opportunities to use your English outside of class and have some fun! At some point we would love to do some activities outdoors, so as soon as we have permission from the government and the University we'll explore those options.

We already have lots of ideas for virtual activities:

- Explore Pittsburgh: September 5, 1-2:00 pm
- Cooking Lesson – Chocolate Chip Cookies - TBD
- Pumpkin Carving and Halloween – TBD
- International Speed Friending - TBD
- Virtual Movie Night – (time and movie TBD)
- Virtual Happy Hour - TBD
- Poetry Writing for Non-Native Speakers of English – TBD
- Virtual Picnic – TBD
- Online Video Game Competition - TBD
- Language & Music Club – TBD
- Outdoor Scavenger Hunt – TBD

We'll announce all of the dates and times in upcoming issues of the [ELI News](#). You can also visit the [ELI Activities Calendar online](#).

Off-campus and in-person activities may be added (continued on page 2)

if and when University and government policies allow for it.

## Bike Share at Pitt

Looking for a socially-distanced way to commute to class or around Pittsburgh? Try [Bike Share at Pitt](#), brought to you by the University of Pittsburgh's Office of Sustainability, the Office of Parking, Transportation, and Services, and Healthy Ride. The partnership debuted last year, and now they are including free 30-minute rides to all University students and employees. There are 100 stations, of which 17 are around the campus. There are 550 bikes across 24 of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods, so there is probably a station within walking distance of your residence. In addition to avoiding crowded buses or expensive ride-share options like Lyft, Uber or Z-Trip, Healthy Ride bike sharing is better for the environment and your physical health.

If you choose to use Healthy Ride's Bike Share program with Pitt, please take the time to get the correct helmet and learn all about bike safety and the laws regarding bike riding in Pittsburgh. A good place to start is Pitt's Parking, Transportation and Services Office page for [bicycling resources](#) and [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bike Page](#). We'd also recommend wiping the bike down with disinfectant before and after riding to prevent the spread of germs and viruses.

## Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Backpack Lending Program

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has launched a fantastic new [Backpack Lending Program](#) with the tools you and your family need to explore animals, insects, plants, and more. There are 4 backpacks from which

to choose: Meadow, Forest, Stream and Health.

Reservation costs \$10 per backpack, and must be submitted no later than 3 p.m. the Friday before the reservation date. For example, if you wanted to reserve a Meadow backpack for Wednesday, September 16, you would need to submit the reservation no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, September 11. Pickup is contactless and located at the open-air gatehouse at the [Frick Environmental Center](#) on Beechwood Boulevard. There are disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer to ensure a clean pick-up and backpack before you take it home. You will receive an email with a backpack number and combination to the padlock on the gate. To return the backpack, place it in the area marked "BACKPACK RETURN" in the open-air gatehouse at the Frick Environmental Center no later than 5 p.m. on Sunday.

## ELI Absence Policy

For the Fall 2020 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 pm on Friday, September 11, 2020** 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/p1lquhtz01f7d2d/>

## U.S. Alcohol Laws

All ELI students and employees of the University must fully obey the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding the possession and consumption of alcohol. These laws prohibit providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 or to anyone visibly intoxicated. Anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages under any circumstances, and anyone under the age of 21 is prohibited from being on licensed premises where alcohol is served, unless under proper supervision. (Continued on page 3)

Please contact Stacy if you have any questions about these laws.



## 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, please complete the process below 24 hours before going to Panther Central to pick-up your ID:

1. Make sure your Pitt email is active and you are using it.
2. Go to the Panther Central website ([pc.pitt.edu](http://pc.pitt.edu)) and click “Panther Card.”
3. Click “Photo Upload” and 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](mailto: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 and a current, valid mailing address.

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

## New Student Checklist

Did you remember to:

- Get your Student ID card?

- Activate and begin to regularly use your Pitt email?
- Submit your mailing address on the [ELI Change of Address Form](#)?
- Submit a copy of your Financial Guarantee?
- Give a copy of your Financial Guarantee to the Student Payment Center?
- Buy your textbooks?
- Make sure all of your technology for class is working and software is updated, including virus and malware protection?

## I-94 Numbers Required

Each student must give the ELI Main Office his or her I-94 admission number by **4:00 pm Friday, September 11**. To find your DHS I-94 admission number:  
1. Go to: <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 pm, September 11** using this secure link: <https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhtz01f7d2d/>

Email the ELI Main Office at [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu) if you have any questions.

## 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 send an updated sponsor letter to the ELI and to the Student Payment Center each term. If you have any questions about this, please contact the ELI Main Office at [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). Please submit the letters to the ELI using this secure link (do not email): <https://dsaspitt.wufoo.com/forms/p1lquhtz01f7d2d/>

## Paying Tuition Fall 2020

Tuition is charged to your Pitt account typically within 24 hours of registering. To avoid late fees, you should pay your tuition for the Fall 2020 term by **September 16, 2020**. Check your account by logging in to [my.pitt.edu](http://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/>
- Credit cards: online only at [my.pitt.edu](http://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.

Please note that the Student Payment Center offices are currently staffed remotely. There is nobody in the Thackeray Hall offices, so cash, paper checks, and money orders cannot be accepted or processed at this time. Please email [payments@pitt.edu](mailto:payments@pitt.edu) (include your 7 digit student ID or Peoplesoft number) or call 412-624-7520 for remote assistance.

## Pitt Emergency Alert System

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. (Continued on page 4.)

To subscribe to the Pitt Emergency Notification System:

- Log in to <http://pi.tt/alerts>
  - Click ADD next to MOBILE PHONES and enter your phone number
  - Complete the steps in the subscription wizard
- OR**
- Text "pitt sub yourPittusername ens" to 41411.

It is very easy to sign up and only takes a minute. There is no sign-up fee, but there may be data or messaging charges for the alerts/messages from your phone provider. Please sign up today!

## Happening at Pitt

Opportunities to have fun, workout and practice English outside of the classroom.

**Friday, September 4:** [Be Fit Pitt](#)'s virtual initiatives continue through Fall. At 7:15 a.m. you can join [Awakening Morning Yoga](#) for the ultimate Zen start to your day. Or power up at 10 a.m. with [Mid-Morning Mash-Up](#) to get your heart really pumping. At 12:30 p.m., the [Pitt Power-Up Energizer](#) workout will get you sweating and happy.

Want to meet new faces and spend time connecting with other Pitt folks? Try the [CONNECT Virtual Happy Hour](#), hosted by the Center for Metropolitan Studies.

Looking for a game to play? Come join the Pitt Program Council at 10 p.m. for their [Late Night Movie Trivia](#). This is also a great time to keep a notepad and pencil handy to write down movie titles to watch!

**Monday, September 7:** Would you like to de-stress and make something pretty? Try [Coloring Your Quarantine](#). Two coloring pages will be released each CYQ day. One is freestyle and the other is color-by-numbers.

**Tuesday, September 8:** Inspired by ballet, Barre classes focus on lower body workouts that feature flexibility and strength-training. Join Stephanie, owner of Vibe Fitness, for a [virtual Barre class](#) every Tuesday at 8 a.m.

For more events, check out the [Pitt Events Calendar](#).

## 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!

## 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 [elipitt@pitt.edu](mailto:elipitt@pitt.edu). This is a good chance to improve your English and have your writing published. All levels are welcome!

## Quote Corner

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence." – [Abigail Adams](#), first lady and wife of President John Adams

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

SOUND OFF: "Ardor" means "enthusiasm or passion" and "diligence" means "careful and continual work or effort." Do you agree with this quote? Does learning require more than enthusiasm and hard work? What does learning mean to you?

## Joke of the Week

The Joke of the Week is courtesy of [Red Tricycle](#). It is a play on words.

Question: Where do pencils go on vacation?

Answer: To Pencil-vania!



**WELCOME**  
to the University of  
Pittsburgh English  
Language Institute