



ELI NEWS

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

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ELI IEP Activity:

Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Wed., Oct. 28 * 2:00 – 3:00 pm



photo source: bbcgoodfood.com

We're not able to have an in-person Halloween party this year, but that's not an obstacle for having fun! On Wednesday, October 28, ELI Associate Director Rob Mucklo will show you how to take a pumpkin and carve (cut) it into a traditional Halloween jack-o-lantern. We'll also talk a little bit about the history of Halloween and Halloween traditions in the US.

You can watch, listen, and/or buy your own pumpkin in advance and carve along with us during this activity on Zoom! If you'd like to carve a pumpkin along with us, the only other materials you will need are a pumpkin, a knife, and a spoon. If you plan to carve your own pumpkin, avoid buying the smaller pumpkins that are called pie pumpkins. Those have a very thick skin and are more difficult and more dangerous to carve. If you're carving a pumpkin with a small child, you can find special pumpkin

carving knives and kits in the Halloween section of most retail stores.

If you really want to be traditional, you'll also need a small tea light candle or votive candle, and a match or lighter to light up your jack-o-lantern. If you really, REALLY want to get in the Halloween spirit, you can wear a mask or costume when you join, too!

This is a great way to have some fun, get in the Halloween spirit, and practice English, but you must [register in advance](#) for this activity. Please contact [Rob Mucklo](#) if you have any questions.

ELI/IEP:

ELI Virtual Language & Music Club Activity



Date: Monday, October 26

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Place: Wherever you and your laptop are

Most people acknowledge that music has the potential to unify people. Even though it is not feasible to be in the same physical space now, we can join together in a virtual format to enjoy learning English through songs.

ELI teachers Ece and Heather insist that you join them for an evening of musical, English fun. Last week you could extrapolate from the smiling faces that the participants had a

great time with verb tenses and vocabulary while we sang *I Can See Clearly Now* and *I'll Be There for You*.

Because some people may be looking forward to Halloween with great anticipation, we will do some Halloween-themed songs next Monday. In one of the songs, you will encounter some somber themes, but any sad feelings will quickly diminish with the subsequent song. The names of these songs will not be divulged in this article. You must attend the Music Club to find out!

While one of the purposes of the evening will be to exude confidence as we raise our voices together in song, if you feel too timid to sing into the computer mic, "Mute" is always an option in Zoom.

Please [register](#) for the activity by 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26. You will receive the handouts for the activity via your Pitt email in advance if you register by 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Everyone will be able to access the handouts during the activity.

Use the same password that you use for your ELI classes.

ELI Writing Contest

The ELI is holding a competition for students in all writing classes. There will be one winner in each level (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 not know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

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

Chinese Enters into Modern English

By: I-Ting Wang

We all came to ELI to learn English. Yet, do you know that English has absorbed and has borrowed words from different languages? French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, and Arabic are renowned languages that have been borrowed and used. English is always changing and evolving, and the Chinese language has been incorporated into modern English as well.

Factors for Chinese influences in the English language are believed to be diverse; however, culture is a crucial catalyst for Chinese entering in modern English. Food is considered to be most representative of one's culture. Chinese cuisine has been recognized to be one of the greatest cuisines in the world, and it is extremely popular in the United States. Therefore, a significant number of words from Chinese cuisine have come into English, for instance, *ginseng* and *dim sum*. *Ginseng* is a Chinese herbal root, well-known for its disease prevention and anti-aging properties. The addition of *ginseng* into tea or a stew with chicken and mushrooms are common uses. *Dim sum* are small appetizer dishes, including sweets and savory foods, which contain pastries, cakes, meats, and vegetables. The variety

of options and small portions are believed to satisfy the heart, leading to its Chinese meaning: *touching the heart*.

The popularity of Chinese cuisine in Western countries is a significant factor that impacts modern English. English is an international language; incorporating Chinese into English by integrating culture is essential for intercultural communication as well as the acceptance of different cultures.

What is Halloween?

While many people believe that Halloween began as a Christian holiday, some historians say that Halloween traditions in the U.S. actually began in other religions and cultures. Wikipedia.org explains that Halloween originally comes from the Celts (a diverse tribe of people that once covered much of what is now Europe but which is typically associated with Ireland, Scotland and the surrounding areas). The Celts had a Fall festival to celebrate their Fall harvest. In addition, as part of their religion they believed that on October 31, the boundary between the living and the dead disappeared and that evil spirits could come back to earth and cause problems. They would wear costumes and masks to try to look like the evil spirits so that the evil spirits would not harm them.

The carved pumpkin, or jack-o-lantern, is probably the most recognizable symbol of Halloween. This, too, came from the Celts. The Celts believed that the head was the most powerful part of the body because it contained the spirit and knowledge. For this reason, they used the "head" of root vegetables (such as turnips and rutabagas) to frighten off evil spirits. Long after the Celts, these Fall traditions were brought to what is now the US. Since pumpkins were more readily available here, the early settlers used pumpkins instead of other vegetables.



Time to Change Our Clocks

On Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2:00 a.m. we will move the time on our clocks back one hour. At 2:00 a.m. clocks will be changed to 1:00 a.m. Most electronics in the US, such as iPhones, will change the time automatically. This is called "Daylight Savings Time." The practice of Daylight Savings Time is followed mostly in North America, Europe and other locations that are usually farther north of the equator. **Please note that if you are a student studying remotely from outside of the US, you will need to adjust for the time change too. This means that if you live in a place that does not follow Daylight Savings Time, your ELI classes will begin an hour earlier than usual, beginning Monday, November 2.** For example, if your Speaking class has started at 4:00 p.m. in your home country, it will start at 3:00 p.m. beginning November 2. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu.

While the exact date of Daylight Savings Time may fluctuate every year, it is not arbitrary. Daylight Savings Time corresponds with the natural shortening of daylight time in the Fall and the natural lengthening of daylight time in the Summer. According to wikipedia.org, by moving our clocks back one hour we're adding more daylight time to the afternoons and less daylight time to mornings and evenings. This gives us more daylight time in the summer for sports and activities outdoors. Another benefit is saving electricity and energy. However, some people have conflicting points of view on the issue of Daylight Savings Time.

Not everyone agrees with the practice. Some people feel that they are being manipulated into working longer hours in the summer. Some believe that more daylight means more exposure to the sun and therefore more possibilities of skin cancer. Other people say that the problems are more basic. They say that many people inevitably forget to change their clocks causing them problems with work and family life. What do you think?

Spring 2021 ELI Schedule: Change

The University of Pittsburgh has changed its Spring 2021 dates to follow COVID-19 safety precautions, and the ELI is also making some adjustments. The ELI placement test for the Spring 2021 term will be Tuesday, January 12, and the first day of ELI classes will be Tuesday, January 19. Therefore, if you are a continuing student, your first day will be January 19. The ELI Closing Ceremony will be Monday, April 12, 2021. Remember that the ELI takes attendance beginning on the first day of class. While this is our current plan, these dates are subject to change. Stacy will begin pre-registration for the Spring 2021 term soon, so please check your Pitt email for more information. Contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu if you have any questions.

Change of Address

Have you moved recently or since you started at the ELI? Both the ELI and the University of Pittsburgh need to keep accurate information on record and it is important for us to know if your address changes. Please make sure that we have your most up-to-date information by submitting a quick [Change of Address](#) to the Front Office.

Pittsburgh Treats: Pittsburgh Food Trucks

By: Rachel Mauer

Food trucks are a way for people to experience delicious tasting food outside of a restaurant. During the pandemic, food trucks allow you to buy food and eat it in the comfort of your home or at a nearby park. Pittsburgh has plenty of food trucks for you to try with interesting and unique food to order. Check out some of our favorite Pittsburgh food trucks below.

Blowfish BBQ

Blowfish BBQ cooks Pittsburgh-style barbecue at a low temperature for a long time over a wood fire. This adds a smoke flavor to their ribs, brisket, and macaroni and cheese. Blowfish regularly sells their food outside of popular beer breweries such as [Roundabout Brewery](#), [Allegheny City Brewing](#), and [Brew Gentlemen](#). Remember that if you want to buy locally made beer in the United States, you must be 21 years or older. To see where this food truck is selling each week, check out [Blowfish BBQ's Facebook page](#).

Halal Pitt

[Halal Pitt](#) brings New York City street food to Pittsburgh. This award-winning food truck is permanently located at the corner of Fifth Ave and South Bouquet Street in Oakland. Here you can find flavorful platters and gyros with chicken, lamb, or falafel. Make sure you try Halal Pitt's white sauce. If you don't want to wait in line, you can place an order for delivery through Grubhub, Doordash, or UberEats.

Mr. Bulgogi

Mr. Bulgogi has been on the Pittsburgh food scene since 2017. The Korean BBQ food truck has a short but memorable menu that is regularly updated. No matter what

you select from the menu, you will get some amazing food that is well spiced. Mr. Bulgogi is a popular food truck. This means you can find them at many locations throughout the city. [Follow Mr. Bulgogi on Facebook](#) to see where you can find them.

Some other favorite food trucks in Pittsburgh include: [Pittsburgh Sandwich Society](#), [Pita My Shawarma](#), and [Blue Sparrow Global Street Food](#). Before visiting a recommended food truck, check each business's website to follow proper safety guidelines. Respect all CDC safety guidelines such as staying 6 feet away from others, properly wearing a face mask, and washing hands for at least 20 seconds.

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. Please, your feedback helps us to be better. We can't do it without you!

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. In this survey **1 is the lowest rating.**

The surveys are available starting Monday, November 2. Please respond by Monday, November 16. The survey will not be available after November 16. Please be sure to respond before that day. If you have any questions, ask any or all of your teachers.

CV and Cover Letter for Graduate School Applications: Workshop

Erin Wheeler, a Career Consultant from the University of Pittsburgh Career Center, will offer a workshop on tips for writing a CV and cover letter for graduate school program applications. The workshop will be via Zoom on Thursday, November 5 from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm. Ms. Wheeler will present tips and take questions following her presentation. You must register for this workshop. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m. Email Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu to register.

Owl-Ween at the National Aviary

Halloween is only two weeks away, and owls have long been associated with the spooky holiday. At the National Aviary, celebrate owls with [Owl-Ween](#). Timed tickets are available for October 24 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The event includes a “trick or treat” bag for children full of goodies at the National Aviary’s Visitor Services Desk, crafts at physically distanced tables, and a “meet and greet” with a Spectacled Owl or a Eurasian Eagle Owl in a theatre setting.

Please note that at the National Aviary, there are rooms where birds

are free to fly around as they please. Hand sanitation stations are available and proper mask-wearing is required at all times. Admission to this event is admission to the National Aviary, so take the opportunity to explore more than the just owls.



Healthy Rides Bike Scavenger Hunt

[Healthy Rides](#) is hosting a [Bike-or-Treat Scavenger Hunt](#) on Halloween (Saturday, October 31) from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Healthy Rides will hide 5 bikes loaded with goodies in secret locations throughout Pittsburgh, and post clues to their whereabouts (general location) on social media.

There are some awesome prizes involved, from companies like: Millie’s Ice Cream, Bike the Burgh, Everyday Café, and more. Follow Healthy Rides on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for the clues.

Healthy Rides offers Pitt students and employees unlimited 30-minute rides for free during the 2020-2021 academic year. They offer great [riding tips](#) and [route suggestions](#), too. Use one of their 550 bikes at one of the 100 stations around Pittsburgh to serve your fitness and transportation needs. You can also view [real-time availabilities](#) whenever you’re ready to ride.

Please make sure to take all Covid-19 and bike safety precautions, including wearing a mask and helmet properly.

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.

Happening at Pitt

Find details and more fun things to do at the [Pitt Events Calendar](#).

October 22

[One Minute Film Festival](#): The Center for Creativity wants you to tell your story. If you have a smartphone or digital camera, you can share stories that you want to tell using stop motion animation, documentaries, music videos and more. The One Minute Film Festival challenges you to tell your story in only 60 seconds. Submissions accepted up until October 26. See the [One Minute Film Festival webpage](#) for details.

Films will be made available for online viewing October 26-28 and winners will be announced at the exhibition on October 29.

[United Way—Art Over Lunch:](#)

From 12:00-1:00 p.m., join local artist Rick Antolic as he teaches a lesson how to draw the Pitt Panther in 30 minutes. If you like, you can finish coloring your picture offline and add Pitt United somewhere in the drawing. Then snap a picture and upload it to the [Pitt United Way Facebook page](#) and invite folks to like the page and your picture. There's a prize for the picture with the most likes. [Registration for this event](#) is required.

[Be Fit Pitt Panther Change Up:](#)

12:30-1:00 p.m. Use your lunchtime to throw some variety into your workout routine with Be Fit Pitt and Panther Change Up. 30 minutes of a total body workout with no equipment needed and a different activity each time. This is a great way to break up the day with some physical activity, pump up your metabolism, and practice listening to English directions. Remember that closed captioning is available to help check for comprehension.

[Mental Health Speaker Series:](#) 6:00-9:00 p.m. Interested in mental health? Join various mental health experts and professors as they give short presentations about mental health and their careers. This is an excellent chance to practice listening, and if you stay for the Question and Answer session in the breakout room, also a good chance to practice speaking as well. [Registration required.](#)

October 23

[Awakening Morning Yoga:](#) 7:15 to 8:00 a.m. Join Be Fit Pitt for a morning yoga routine to align your breath, invigorate your body, and awaken your mind for the day. Closed captioning is available, so you can check your listening skills, too.

[Mid-Morning Mash-Up:](#) 7:15-8:00 a.m. If cardio and strength training is more your jam for getting the morning started, try Be Fit Pitt's Mid-Morning Mash-Up. 30 minutes of powerful activity divided into 10 minute focus segments. Work on cardio, strength, restore and core (abdominal muscles).

[RICE &... Series: Rice and Curry—Charting a Global Foodway in Asia:](#) 3:00-4:30 p.m. Join the Asian Studies Center and Global Hub in exploring rice and curry. [Registration is required](#) for this tasty experience. Discover how British sailors and merchants brought their fondness for Indian curry to Japan, and how curries existed all over Asia for centuries.

October 24

[Celtic Culture Celebrations:](#) If you're new to the ELI during the pandemic, you haven't had a chance to explore the [Nationality Rooms](#) at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. Currently, in-person tours are canceled, but you can still take virtual tours. Each classroom on the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning are called the Nationality Rooms and are designed to represent the culture of various ethnic groups that have settled in the Allegheny County area. This week, the Nationality Rooms present the Celtic Culture Celebration in the Irish, Welsh, and Scottish Rooms:

- [Celtic Culture Celebration—Irish Nationality Room Program Zoom Webcast:](#) 12:00-2:00 p.m. The Irish Nationality Room will hold a virtual celebration of Irish culture, including music, history, and more. [Please register](#) for this event.
- [Celtic Culture Celebration—Welsh Nationality Room Program Zoom Webcast:](#) 3:00-5:00 p.m. The Celtic people didn't just live in Ireland. They also lived in Wales. Join the Welsh Nationality

Room for a continuation of the Celtic Culture Celebration over Zoom to explore Welsh storytelling, poetry, puppetry and lectures. The password will be emailed to you after your [register](#).

- [Celtic Culture Celebration—Scottish Nationality Room Program Zoom Webcast:](#) 6:00-8:30 p.m. After a brief look at the Scottish Nationality Room, enjoy a lecture on “The History of the Scottish Clans” by the President of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh, Scottish music, and even a “Beginner's Workshop in Bagpiping” by Professor Sean Patrick Regan from Edinboro University. [Register](#) soon!

October 26

[Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment:](#) 2:00-2:30 p.m. Take a quick break from everyday life and focus on mindfulness to reduce stress and anxiety. Register for [Monday/Thursday afternoon sessions](#) or [Tuesday morning](#) (7:00 a.m.) sessions.

[Marvelous Monotypes:](#) 3:00-4:00 p.m. Join the Center for Creativity Operations Manager Shannon Fink to learn about making monotypes at home. Monotypes are unique, never-to-be-repeated prints made with various methods. For this workshop, you will need some specific everyday items such as: cardboard, tracing or parchment paper, regular paper, oil pastels or crayons in various colors, pencil/pen, tape, a ruler and a cutting utensil (box cutter, X-Acto knife, or scissors are all okay). [Pre-registration required.](#)

October 27

[Adam Ben Ezra:](#) 12:00-1:00 p.m. As part of [Artful Wednesdays](#), brought to you by Pitt Student Affairs, Israeli double-bass and multi-instrumentalist Adam Ben Ezra will inspire you with his music

and lyrics. This is a free Zoom event for the entire Pitt community.



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 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 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 Drop-In Link for Fridays:

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/98102090044>
(password: ELI Pitt)

FLU SHOTS

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 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.

The Quantum Theatre Presents: *Wild*

Wild, by Mike Bartlett, follows the events surrounding [Edward Snowden's dilemma](#) of who to trust after he's fled America to Russia. Trapped in a Moscow hotel room, who can he trust for protection?

This play will be performed and streamed live from a large stage where actors can stay safe. It will be presented in two 45-minute acts over six nights. Act I will be performed live at 8:00 p.m. on October 20, 21, 22, and 24. The October 21 performance will be followed by an after-show conversation with cast and crew. On Friday, October 23, and Sunday, October 25, a recording of Act I will air at 7:00 p.m. followed by a live presentation of Act II at 8:00 p.m.

The restaurant Yuzu is offering a pre-show dinner special on Friday, October 23. The set price is \$26 and Yuzu will match dollar for dollar to donate gift cards to those experiencing food insecurity.

For tickets and more information about the play and special events,

head to the [Quantum Theatre's website](#).

Escape from Zombieburgh: Cybersecurity Scarehouse 2020

This year's [Cybersecurity Scarehouse](#) has moved online. Can you survive the Cyber Apocalypse? Starting on October 19 and running through Halloween (October 31), [check out the daily challenge](#), posted on Pitt's technology website. Each challenge should take around 2 minutes, helps you learn a Rule for Cyber Survival, and gets you an entry into drawings for some awesome prizes.

One letter in each day's rule will be highlighted. Keep track of them for the final challenge. After the 13th challenge, help Pitt IT solve the mystery of what caused the Cyber Apocalypse by unscrambling the letters. Find the source, and your prize entries double. The first 1300 students to finish earn a free movie streaming code.

Health and Wellness Resources at Pitt

Your health is very important, especially during stressful times, but there are many free resources available to students to stay healthy both physically and emotionally:

- [Pitt Fitness Centers and Gyms](#)
- [Be Fit Pitt](#) (live streaming and online exercise and fitness)
- [Healthy Ride](#) (free bike rental for Pitt students and employees)
- [Wellness Workshops](#) from the Pitt Counseling Center
- [The Stress Free Zone](#)
- [University Counseling Center](#)
- [Student Health Services](#)

In addition, students in the ELI's Intensive English Program can also contact the ELI Student Services

Supervisor, [Stacy Ranson](#), for additional support.

Spooky English Idioms

This week, we wanted to share a few English idioms in the spooky spirit of Halloween! These idioms consist of scary things that we associate with Halloween and the month of October, such as skeletons, owls, and ghosts.

Skeleton in the closet– something you don't want anyone to know about because it may bring shame or embarrassment to you or your family

Ex. Dropping out of college might be a skeleton in David's closet but he's working very hard to graduate now.

A ghost town– a place that has been abandoned and there are no longer people living there

Ex. There are lots of students at the ELI for the Fall term, but when students go on vacation, it is like a ghost town.

Makes one's blood boil– something that makes you really angry

Ex. It will really make your teacher's blood boil if you don't do your homework!

A night owl – someone who likes to be awake and active at night

Ex. Maria is a real night owl! She stays up until 2:00 AM every night practicing her English.

For these idioms and more visit the [English Lesson website](#).

ELI Email Directory

If you need to email your teacher but forgot his or her email address, you can always find it on the [ELI web site](#). When you email your teachers, you must use your Pitt email account. Email providers such as Naver, Hotmail, Yahoo and other free email services, often

encounter problems with the Pitt email system. If you do not use your Pitt email address, your email be blocked or marked as spam.

Listening Corner

By: Heather McNaught

Since many of us are spending more time at home these days, listening to podcasts is a great way to learn English while you're exercising, taking a walk or hanging out in the evenings or before class. Each week, the ELI News will recommend a podcast that you might enjoy and that can help you to improve your English ability.

This week's recommendation is for [All Ears English](#) Podcast. They have podcasts for IELTS preparation, General English, and Business English. The hosts, Lindsay McMahon and Gabby Wallace are from Boston. They focus the podcast on using everyday vocabulary and idioms, expressions, and phrasal verbs. It also provides suggestions for how to make small talk in American English. This podcast is suitable for intermediate to advanced level English- language learners – in particular professionals or university students.

If there's a podcast you enjoy and you would like to share with your classmates and teachers, please send the name and a link to the podcast homepage to elipitt@pitt.edu. Happy Listening!!



Joke of the Week

Question: What happens to a vampire in winter?

Answer: They get frost bite.

Quote Corner

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.”—Saint Augustine

Source: [BrainyQuote](#)

SOUND OFF: What have you learned through travel? How does travel teach us? What will you use what you have learned in your travels?



More Fun Things to Do

To find out what fun activities are planned for students in 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 Serves](#) (volunteer opportunities)
- [Pitt Center for Creativity](#)

We hope you take advantage of these opportunities to use English outside of the classroom, make friends with students in degree programs at Pitt, and have fun, too!