



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:

ELI Virtual Game Night Scattergories

As we near the end of the semester, your motivation for studying English might begin to diminish. If you are looking for a catalyst to generate some energy, then join the ELI on Saturday, November 7, from 8:00-9:00 pm for another uproarious Virtual Game Night! We will play a game called Scattergories.

The name of this game is an example of a portmanteau, a word that combines parts of multiple words. Some other examples of this kind of word transformation are brunch and podcast. Scattergories is a combination of the words scatter and category. From this information, you can try to extrapolate what kind of game we will play. The details of this game will be divulged in next week's *ELI News*!

ELI Activity:

Make Friends Fast: International Speed Friending

Join us for International "Speed Friending" as part of [International Week](#) at the University of Pittsburgh. This is a fun way to make friends fast, practice your English, and have fun while

achieving your goals of improving your English.

If you've ever heard of "Speed Dating," this is similar. The only difference is that the objective is to make friends! On Monday, November 2, from 4:30-6 pm, ELI students and other international students at Pitt will have the opportunity to meet American students at Pitt, and vice versa. We'll be using a gaming-like platform called "Icebreaker" in which students will be put into breakout rooms to play a card game for 5 minutes and answer questions and get to know each other. After five minutes, a timer will go off and the students will be assigned to another breakout room to talk with someone else. At the end of the event, students anonymously decide if they'd like to exchange contact information.

This is not for dating! Students will also have the opportunity to exchange contact information in case they want to keep in touch.

You must [register in advance](#) for this event by Sunday, November 1. Don't be reluctant to do this. You have nothing to lose... and will gain practice with English and maybe even make some new friends!

For more information about this event, contact [Rob Mucklo](#) or visit www.iweek.pitt.edu.



ELI Virtual Reading Club Halloween Theme

Do you feel ambivalent about reading? Perhaps you want to enjoy reading, but you become frustrated trying to understand every detail. If you want to overcome the adversity you encounter in reading, then join the ELI from 8:00-9:00 pm on Saturday, October 31, for the ELI's Virtual Reading Club! We are meeting a little later than last time in order to avoid our activity running concurrently with trick-or-treating.

The disparate texts planned for this Saturday have not been chosen arbitrarily. All of them are related to Halloween. We will read a kid-friendly spooky story as well as short articles about the prodigious number of haunted places in Pittsburgh. In addition, we will also read some Halloween jokes that will inevitably lead to uproarious laughter.

By the end of this session, you will walk away with a positive attitude about reading and gain the tenacity to read more. Please [register for this activity](#) by 7:00 pm on Saturday, October 31. Use the same password that you use for your ELI classes.

International Education Week at Pitt

November 1 to 6

The University of Pittsburgh joins colleges and universities from all over the nation to celebrate International Education Week. For one week every year, the U.S. Department of State and the U. S. Department of Education join with Pitt's University Center of International Studies to produce, support, and coordinate international activities campus-wide. This is a chance to expand your awareness and knowledge of global events and issues, collaborate with and learn from students all over the world, gain new cultural understanding and perspectives, and experience a small slice of the life and diversity within Pittsburgh and out in the wide world.

Events during this week include, but are not limited to:

- [Art, Identity, and Activism with Jasmine Cho: Cookie Art Workshop](#)
- [Watch Party Wednesday](#)
- [K-pop Virtual Showcase](#)
- [International Speed Friending](#)
- [Brain Candy Podcast Live at Pitt](#)
- and more!

For a detailed list of events, go to www.internationalweek.pitt.edu and click on "Schedule of Events" at the top of the page.

Brain Candy Podcast Live! at Pitt November 2 * 6-7:30 pm



Join us for a live interactive presentation on Zoom of [The Brain Candy Podcast](#), the 2019 "Society and Culture" winner of the Podcast Awards. A sugar rush for your intellectual side, the ladies from the Brain Candy Podcast, Susie Meister

and Sarah Rice muse about their experiences with reality television, travel abroad, and everything in between – candy for your left brain AND your right brain. Their special guest will be Dr. Larry Brilliant, notable for his work in the 1970s with the World Health Organization to eradicate smallpox.

Though perhaps best known for her reality TV show stardom, Pitt alum and Pittsburgh native Susie Meister is well-versed in global and social issues. She has felt this firsthand while participating on the MTV television show *Road Rules*, where she spent months outside of her normal life and confined to adventures with strangers in a Winnebago. She completed her PhD in Religious Studies at Pitt in 2014, and now works as a diversity trainer and activist against prejudice. She brings that expertise to her podcast with her co-host Sarah Rice, fellow reality star from MTV's *The Real World: Brooklyn and The Challenge*, who now holds an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Join us for this very special podcast as Susie and Sarah explore themes ranging from bringing local to global, travel, social media, smallpox, pandemics, and everything in between. Prizes will be raffled off, too, but to be eligible for prizes, attendees must register for the event using their Pitt email address.

This event is free and open to the public; however, [advanced registration](#) is required. For more information about this event or other [International Week](#) events at Pitt, contact [Rob Mucklo](#).

The Mistakes that English Speakers Make When Speaking in Arabic

By: Entesar Aljadhi

It is widely acknowledged that some English speakers make the same mistakes when they are speaking

Arabic. The question is, why do the pronunciation of some words change while some are still the same? The underlying reason for the pronunciation change is the challenging sounds for a few letters such as ط, ظ, ح which are often translated as /t/, /d/, and /h/. These sounds played a big role in the pronunciation change. For instance, many Americans are so inclined to mispronounce any word that has / ط / /sound, and substitute that sound with /d/ sound such as the word Abu Dhabi and Dhuhran. Recently many studies have shown that uncommon letters are the main reason for mispronouncing some words between languages. For that reason, English speakers mispronounce some Arabic words.

Spanish in the English Language

By: Luisa Fernanda Fernandez
Velandia

The Spanish language has had a great impact on English linguistics, due to the large population of Spanish-speaking people who have migrated to countries where the first language is English, such as Australia and Canada. According to the United States Census Bureau (2019), around 60 million Latinos inhabit the United States, which constitutes 18.3% of the American population. It is known that languages are constantly changing, and English is no exception. Due to the great disparity of cultures in the United States, its language is bound to change all the time, and Spanish has played an important role. The Latino demographic, culture, and learning the language has influenced English to absorb some Spanish influence.

The Cervantes Institution report "Spanish: A living language" (2014), shows that the Spanish language is increasing, since it is the second mother tongue to a number of native speakers of the more than 6,000 languages that exist today. One of the keys to the growth of the

Spanish-speaking population in the United States is the great use of Spanish in the domestic environment. This suggests that the linguistic imprint left by the family is essential for the acquisition of said language. Furthermore, it has been reported by The Cervantes Institution (2014) that in the year 2050, the United States will have the most Spanish speakers in the world.

Language as a support for communication and creation is a central element of the cultural sector, which is made known internationally through literature, theater, cinema, restaurants, social media, etc. The presence and use of Spanish are becoming increasingly evident in English-speaking countries. A specific example of this is through music. According to Britton (2018), songs in Spanish like *Feliz Navidad* in 1970, *Macarena* in 1996, and the most recent one *Despacito* in 2017 have invaded the hearts of millions of English speakers. Cultural expressions generate a great impact and leave traces of the cultural context of Spanish speakers (Villalobos Graillet, 2015). This leads to the adoption of certain words in the English culture that cannot be translated (Zhou, 2016), such as: *patio, solo, macho, guerrilla, mosquito, plaza, cafeteria, tamales, fajitas*, etc. In addition, English population feel compelled and encouraged to accept more words or slang from the Spanish language, understanding cultures and their point of view in certain circumstances from a more intimate approach. This has led to interpersonal ties with people we call *Amigos*, which means friends in English, or a little more familiar like *Mama* and *Papa*.

The Spanish language has been leaving its mark and its sound in different English-speaking countries, especially in the United States. The presence of the large Hispanic population in different countries has been the catalyst for

the great adoption of Spanish words into the English lexicon. This has motivated many to speak the Spanish language, because it is a feasible way to interact and establish personal ties with others and learn more about disparate cultures which use this language. This may come as a surprise to those who criticize its "linguistic imperialism", but English is actually like a vacuum cleaner, insatiable when it comes to absorbing and adopting foreign words. The influence from Spanish to English is inevitable and more because of the proximity of the English-speaking Hispanic population, generating a great unification in the culture helping to understand problems and positions from another point of view. (References available upon request.)

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.

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 know who you are). The judges will choose the best composition from each level.

The deadline for entries is Monday, November 16 at 12:00 p.m.

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

Good luck!

Transfer Process

Students with F1 visas who want to transfer to a new school must contact Stacy to complete the transfer. You must provide a copy of the acceptance letter and the transfer form from the new school. You may transfer at any time during the term, but you must complete this process to remain in legal status. Remember that if you complete

your final term of study at level 6 at the ELI, you have a 60-day grace period. During that time, you may stay in the U.S. without studying, and you may request a transfer at any time during that 60-day period. If you do not complete level 6, you have a 2-week grace period, and you must request a transfer within that time.

If you do not request a transfer during the grace period, you will be out of status at the end of your grace period, and it will be too late to transfer your SEVIS record. Please contact Stacy if you have any questions about this process.

Statement of Purpose Information Session

When you apply to academic programs in the US, most universities ask for a statement of purpose. Many people believe that the statement of purpose is the most important piece of a college application. Your statement of purpose is your chance to tell the admissions committee who you really are. Do you know what to include in your statement? Just as important, do you know what not to include?

If you would like tips on how to write an effective and clear statement of purpose, come to the statement of purpose session on Monday, November 9 from 12:00-12:45 p.m. on Zoom. You can enjoy lunch while you watch. **You must sign up for this presentation.** Contact Stacy at sar72@pitt.edu to register. Hope to see you there!

Safety Tips

The ELI believes that overall, the people of Pittsburgh are kind and welcoming to international students. The University of Pittsburgh's goal is to be a place where all students feel like they belong and are valued. You should be treated with respect and feel safe, whether you are at

school or in the outside community of Pittsburgh. There may be times when you encounter someone who is not kind and welcoming, though. If this happens, or if you feel that someone has discriminated against you, please keep the following tips in mind:

- If you encounter someone who is rude or discriminates against you in public, ignore the person and leave the area as soon as possible. Do not respond to rudeness with rudeness; the safest and most intelligent thing to do is to walk away.
- If an employee of a business discriminates against you, leave the area, and write down the time, place, what happened, and name of the employee, if you have it.
- It is important to report inappropriate behavior to a store or office manager. The company or office will want to know if their employee is using inappropriate behavior. Stacy can help you decide if you want to make a report and how to do it. Stacy's email is sar72@pitt.edu.

The ELI is sharing these tips because it is good to be prepared in case something negative happens, but we are also confident that your time in Pittsburgh will be filled with positive experiences! We are committed to doing everything we can to make that happen, so please don't hesitate to contact Stacy if you have any questions or concerns.



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 will end what is called "Daylight Savings Time," which began in March of this year.

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.

Happening at Pitt

Here are some highlights from the [Pitt Events Calendar](#) that you might want to check out for socializing and practicing English.

October 29

[Halloween Costume and Mask Contest](#): The Office of the Dean of Students presents a virtual Halloween Costume and Mask Contest over social media. Share your photos from October 26-November 1 and tag Pitt Student Affairs on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) with #PittNow to be a part of the contest.

[Mask Up! Mask Decorating Competition](#): Pitt's Student Health Service is hosting a week-long mask making competition. The top pick in each category will win a prize. Click on the link to explore the different categories, because there is a different one each day.

Submissions can be made by direct messaging one of the Wellness Center social accounts on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#), or by emailing shsohep@pitt.edu. If you need a blank mask, fill out the Covid-19 Daily Health Check before stopping by Student Health Service to pick one up. The competition runs through October 30.

[One Minute Film Festival](#): The Center for Creativity is still taking [submissions](#) for the One Minute Film Festival until November 2. Use your camera or smartphone to create the one-minute story you want other people to experience.

[Glitch Art \(Spooky Halloween Edition\)](#): 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Watch a live demonstration of how to create creepy and cool images using data bending. Note that this is an in-process livestream and not a structured workshop. Think of this an introduction to the techniques and tools to creating art with data bending. If you are not comfortable trying it yourself, you are welcome to just watch. This event will be on [Zoom](#) (the Zoom link is hyperlinked here).

[She Creates](#): Starts at 5:00 p.m. Presented by the Big Idea Center, Women in Bio-Pittsburgh and CMU Project Olympus, this event features female founders/CEO's from all over the country. They will discuss their challenges as women in the male-dominated tech industry, including the gender investment gap and lack of women in founder roles. Keynote Speaker: Susie Harboth. Introductory Speaker: Margot Matouk. Join and get inspired.

October 30

[Awakening Morning Yoga](#): 7:15-8:00 a.m. Be Fit Pitt and the Healthy Lifestyle Institute bring you 45 minutes of practice to raise your awareness and get you moving in the morning. Features include: breath alignment, yoga flow, grounding, and mindfulness.

[Pitt Power-Up Energizer](#): 12:30-12:45 p.m. If lunchtime is your preferred workout time, try this 15-minute powerhouse workout to pump you up for the rest of your day.



October 31

[The Nightmare Before Christmas Screening](#): 8:00-10:00 p.m. Proper mask wearing required. The Halloween family movie classic [Tim Burton's: The Nightmare Before Christmas](#) is presented by Pitt Program Council on the Petersen Events Center lawn, drive-in style. [Sign-ups required](#). The Petersen Events Center lawn will be marked with physical distancing circles allowing for 2 people per circle. You must present proof of sign-up to be allowed to attend, and complete the Covid-19 Daily Health check before arriving on campus.

November 1

[International Photo Contest Virtual Display](#): Through November 8, you can view the work of the five finalists in the International Photo Contest and vote for your favorite image. Winners will be announced next week.

[Slovak Heritage Festival](#): Starts at 1:00 p.m. Watch musical and dance performances, cooking and craft demonstrations, and listen to cultural and educational talks about Slovakia and its heritage during this online celebration. This event will air on [YouTube](#).

November 2

[International Speed Friending](#): 4:30-6:00 p.m. A free virtual event hosted by your very own English Language Institute, International Speed Friending is similar to

“Speed Dating,” but the objective is to make new friends. There will be structured time to have short conversations but also time to break off and mingle. [Advanced registration required](#), as well as a Pitt email address. Contact [Rob Mucklo](#) for more information.

[Día de los Muertos and Día de los Santos Lesson and Workshop](#): starts at 11:00 a.m. The Center for Latin American Studies presents a virtual lesson about the Día de los Muertos (“Day of the Dead”) and the Día de los Santos (“Day of the Saints”) with Lisa DiGioia-Nutini and Manuel Roman-Lacayo. Everyone is welcome to join in learning about the way the Latin community celebrates remembrance and those who have passed on. [Registration required](#).

[Brain Candy Podcast Live](#): 6:00-7:30 p.m. A free event open to the public, with prizes raffled off. Join the Brain Candy Podcast hosts Susie Meister (a Pitt graduate and Pittsburgh native) and Sarah Rice as they muse about their experiences with reality tv, travel, and more. Their special guest will be Dr. Larry Brilliant who worked with the World Health Organization in the 70’s to eradicate smallpox. [Register](#) online and contact [Rob Mucklo](#) with any questions.

November 3

[Stress Free Zone Mindful Moment](#): starts at 7:30 a.m. Take a moment to pause on this Election Day and practice some mindfulness meditation. Meditation portions are 15 to 20 minutes long. [Registration is necessary](#).

November 4

[Axe Throwing](#): 4:00-8:00 p.m. Try the latest trend in competitive fun, brought to you by the Pitt Program Council and Ace Axe Throwing’s mobile axe trailer. You must complete the COVID-19 Daily Health Check before coming onto campus, as well as [register](#) and sign

up for a 20-minute time slot. You may have up to 6 people in your group. Face coverings must be worn properly and closed-toed shoes are required for safety. There’s a grand prize at the end of the event for the highest score, as well as a prize for each group. Ace Axe Throwing may have more safety precautions than listed here, so make sure to listen to and follow any directions they give.

Pittsburgh Halloween Trick-or-Treat 2020

Trick-or-Treating is a Halloween tradition where children dressed in costumes go door-to-door asking for candy (see our article “How to Trick-or-Treat” for details). Each Pittsburgh neighborhood has their own times and ways to allow families to Trick-or-Treat safely, especially during the current pandemic. WPXI and other local TV stations have gathered lists of [local Trick-or-Treat times](#).

To stay safe this year, the City of Pittsburgh recommends:

- Trick-or-Treat only with other household members
- Wear a cloth facemask properly, even if you are wearing a Halloween mask
- Carry and properly use hand sanitizer
- If you are planning on giving out candy, avoid face-to-face interactions and instead, leave candy outside
- Follow physical distancing on sidewalks and when passing by other people (be especially careful when getting candy)
- Do not attend any indoor costume parties or events

Please note that the CDC does not recommend Trick-or-Treating this year. Check out their [list of Halloween recommendations](#) for this year on their website. If you choose to Trick-or-Treat or do any other Halloween activities, please make sure to take all precautions

and use your best judgement regarding safety.

No-Carve Pumpkin Decorating Ideas

Carved Jack-o-Lanterns are definitely part of the Halloween spirit, but what if you don’t have the tools, time, or ability? Should your pumpkin sit sad and plain on the porch? No way! Here are some fun ideas to decorate your pumpkin, with no carving required!

- Paint your pumpkin a solid color, and stick it full of push-pins.
- Crayon drips! Remove the paper from crayons and break them into small bits. Lay an old towel or a plastic bag on a flat surface, and sit your pumpkin on it. (This will make clean-up easier.) Place the pieces one at a time near the pumpkin’s stem and use a low-heat hairdryer to melt them. As the crayon melts, try moving the pumpkin around to control the drip pattern! Repeat around the whole crayon until you like what you see!
- Even pumpkins want some self-care. Paint a “face mask” on your pumpkin, leaving space for eyes, nose and mouth. Let it dry, and stretch a shower cap over the pumpkin’s “head” and pin it in place with straight pins. Pin on some cucumber “eyes” (or pictures of cucumber slices) and your pumpkin is ready for a spa day.
- Do you have glitter? You can choose whether to paint your pumpkin or leave it plain. Next, cover the stem of the pumpkin in craft glue and dip it into glitter until it’s completely covered.
- Show your Pitt Pride. Hot glue blue and gold pom-poms all over your pumpkin. Arrange them in stripes, clusters, or even in the shape of Panther paw-prints.
- Pretty as a Picture? Nope! Pretty as a Pumpkin? Yep! If you’ve got some mini pumpkins, grab some glue and false lashes. Use a

sharpie to create the “eyeliner” and glue the false lashes in place. Use a sharpie or paint to create lips ready for a kiss, and maybe add a few freckles.

- Last but not least, everyone has candy at this time of year, and it’s usually on sale. Get some candy and stick it into place with hot-glue to create eyes, nose and a mouth. You can get creative. Candy corn would make great teeth for a Halloween-worthy grin.

Whether your pumpkin is large or mini, try one of these ideas to decorate it for Halloween! No carving tools required.

Easy D.I.Y. Halloween Costumes

With Halloween coming up on October 31, you may want to dress up in a costume! Many costumes are easy to create or D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself). Believe it or not, there are many ways you can create a costume using easy to find objects. Below are some ideas:

1. Crayon – To dress like a crayon or wax pen, simply dress head to toe in the same color. Make a crayon logo out of paper to put on your belly and a small pointed hat to look like a crayon
2. Animal – Some animals are easier to dress as than others. For instance, to be a cat or mouse, you can easily make a set of ears out of a headband and some paper. You can also find a set of ears at a costume store for about \$5. You can make the costume come to life by drawing whiskers and other features on your face with make-up.
3. Zombie – A zombie is a well-known, spooky creature and an easy last-minute Halloween costume. For this costume, you will need some costume make-up. This make-up can easily be purchased at stores like Rite Aid, Walgreens, Walmart, and Target. You will need to make your skin

pale, darken your eyes, and maybe add some blood. The best part about being a zombie is that you can wear whatever clothes you would like.

ELI Joke of the Week

Question: What do you call a witch who goes to the beach?

Answer: A sand-witch!

Source: [Red Tricycle](#)

Quote Corner

“A person should always choose a costume which is in direct contrast to her [or his] personality.” – Lucy Van Pelt, *It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!*

Source: [Good Housekeeping](#)

SOUND OFF: If you have seen the movie, can you explain why this quote is ironic? If you haven’t seen the movie, what do you think about Lucy’s opinion on choosing Halloween costumes? Have you ever worn a costume? If so, what was it and what did you think about it?