

*International Hospitality Committee (IHC): Welcoming and Connecting International Visitors
with our Local Community since 1952.*

**English Conversation Classes/Friendship Groups/Discussion Groups
Spring 2025**

These are informal groups of international men and women who meet to gain practical experience speaking English. These groups are a great way to meet new people, to make friends, to practice English, and to learn more about American culture and traditions. Classes and groups are FREE, but regular attendance is encouraged. The times and dates vary, so please check the schedule carefully. No classes during the Spring break (March 17-21, 2025). Also, please email teacher/group leader to register for each class and to get more information.

For more information on these classes, or about inexpensive private English tutoring, please email Vivienne Mackie, vivienne.mackie@gmail.com

You can also find us on **Facebook** at International Hospitality Committee. We'd love for you to join us.

Tuesday Sewing Practice and Handicrafts (like knitting) (in-person)

DAY: Tuesdays

PLACE: Orchard Down Learning Resource Center 2044-A. *(The 2044-A building is between the Laundry Building and Parking Lot F, please enter the classroom from the grass courtyard side, **not** the Orchard Street side. There's a bus stop in front of the building.)*

Address: 2044 S. Orchard St.,
Apt 2044-A, Urbana, IL 61801

DATES: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month, starting January 21, 2025

TIME: 2:30 pm -4:30pm

CONTACT: Ms. Christina Myers. Please email group leader if you are interested, as there is a limited number of sewing machines.

EMAIL: ckmyers2@gmail.com

DAY: Wednesday afternoon English Class(in-person)

PLACE: 2044-A S. Orchard Street (in Orchard Downs)

DAY: Wednesday

TIME: 2:00-3:30pm

DATES: January 15, 2025-May 7, 2025

LEVEL: Intermediate

TEACHER: Ms. Vivienne Mackie

EMAIL: vivienne.mackie@gmail.com

Thursday Friendship Group (in-person)

DAY: Thursdays

TIME: 3:30-4:30 pm

DATES: all semester, starting January 22, 2025

PLACE: Latea, at 601 S. 6th Street on campus

<https://www.latealounge.com/champaign>

NOTE: Buying something to drink is optional.

You can also just attend.

CONTACT: Ms. Alexa Gordon

EMAIL: alexa.gordon@intervarsity.org

Thursday Friendship Group—an Online Group

DAY: Every Thursday (online)

TIME: 10:00-11:00 am

DATES: all semester

LEVEL: Any level is fine. Each week they have a different topic linked to current happenings, holidays, events.

CONTACTS: Please contact Ms. Saiko Rosenberger to get the Zoom link

EMAIL: srsnbrgr@illinois.edu

If Saiko is not available please contact Vivienne Mackie, vivienne.mackie@gmail.com

Friday afternoon English class (in person) on campus

DAY: Friday

TIME: 2-3pm

DATES: January 24, 2025-May 2, 2025

PLACE: In the lobby of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (500S. Goodwin Ave, Urbana). Look for a table near the Intermezzo Café with a sign saying IHC.

LEVEL: Intermediate

TEACHER: Ms. Elizabeth Parish

EMAIL: sakura.parish@gmail.com

International Book Club

Please contact Ms. Adriana Rom for details about how to join online and to get the book titles.

The main purpose of the club is to talk about topics related to the book.

EMAIL: adriana3400@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: Ask to join The Online Book Club (a private group of IHC)

Other opportunities to practice your English conversation and to meet other people

1. Join your local LIBRARY---check out books and audio books, ask a librarian questions about books, CDs, movies and more. To join, you need ID and proof of residence (such as an account in your name with your local address)

2. Project Read, organized by Parkland College

a. Meet on Mondays at Urbana Free Library 9:30-11:30 am, or

b. Meet at Champaign Public Library on Fridays 9:30-11:30am

For more information email Project

READ@parkland.edu

3. Krannert Uncorked

Thursdays 5-7pm

This is held in the lobby of the Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Goodwin St, Urbana (on campus) Free music 2-3 times a month, when it takes place. Drinks available for purchase. Check the Krannert Center website for dates and details.

<https://krannertcenter.com/calendar/category/44>

4. Classes at First Presbyterian Church in Champaign

Contact Bonnie Ward for more details.

Email: bonnie@firstpres.church

5. International Women's Connection (IWC)

Every Wednesday 9:00-11:30am at Twin City Bible Church in Urbana.

<https://iwc-tcbc.weebly.com>

6. The International Women's Friendship Night (IWFN) meets monthly and features activities such as learning how to prepare some popular foods, making interesting crafts, and sharing a meal together as we enjoy an evening of friendship and conversation. Meeting time is 6:30-8:30 pm.

Registration for attendance and more specific information, including the theme of each month's meeting, can be found during the week before the event at uiuc.ifiusa.org.

International Friendships (IFI) also offers occasional day trips. Check out the same website above.

For questions, contact Donna Erickson

at donnaerickson22@gmail.com

7. At Wesley Church

a. Tuesday Advanced ESL Class (online)

DAY: Tuesdays (online)

TIME: 9:00-10:00am

DATES: all semester

LEVEL: Intermediate. Students read and discuss articles, improve pronunciation, and expand vocabulary.

TEACHER: Dave Mies (Please email Dave to get the Zoom link.)

EMAIL: dwmies@gmail.com

b. Friday ESL Class (in-person)

DAY: Fridays

PLACE: Wesley Student Center, Conference Room (*Wesley is located at the corner of Goodwin & Green, across from the Goodwin-Green apartments. Enter the building from the main parking lot doors. The class is to your left.*)

ADDRESS: 1203 W. Green St., Urbana

DATES: all semester

TIME: 3:00-4:00pm

LEVEL: All levels and ages welcome. Lessons are about American holidays, culture, history, and people.

TEACHERS: Katie Hatzis and Dave Mies

EMAIL: yiwen@wesleyui.org or dwmies@gmail.com

c. Friday International Coffeehouse (in-person)

DAY: Fridays

PLACE: Wesley Student Center, Etc. Coffeehouse
(*Wesley is located at the corner of Goodwin & Green, across from the Goodwin-Green apartments. Enter the building from the Goodwin/Green corner where you see the Etc. Coffeehouse sign.*)

ADDRESS: 1203 W. Green St., Urbana

DATES: all semester

TIME: 4:00-6:00pm (come and go)

NOTE: Everyone is welcome to share coffee & snacks, play games, meet friends, and practice English.

CONTACT: Yiwen Bi

EMAIL: yiwen@wesleyui.org

GOOD LUCK, AND HAVE A GREAT SPRING.

Thanks,

Vivienne Mackie, vivienne.mackie@gmail.com