



Spring 2026



ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
INSTITUTE
UCMERCED

Grammar Masters Workshop Series

Thursdays 12:00-12:50pm COB2 #264

Each interactive workshop is open to undergrads, graduate students, post-docs, staff, and spouses. Come to one workshop... or many!

DATES: **TOPICS:**

- Jan. 29: **Prepositions (in/on/at and more!)**
Discover the secret patterns, why we say “ON the bus,” and other fun facts.
- Feb. 05: **Subject/Verb Agreement**
Get subject/verb agreement right, even in long, complex sentences.
- Feb. 12: **How to Choose the Best Verb Tense**
Learn about “tense shift” and how to avoid this common writing error.
- Feb. 19: **Active/Passive Voice**
This workshop will help you know when it’s best to use passive voice.
- Feb. 26: **When to Use Commas**
If you ever have doubts about when to include commas, you’ll love this.
- Mar. 05: **Strange Punctuation Explained: Colons vs. Semicolons**
Impress your professors by using these two punctuation marks correctly.
- Mar. 12: **What Are the Sentence Types?**
Are most of your sentences simple, compound, or complex? Come find out!
- Mar. 19: **Fixing Run-ons & Sentence Fragments**
We’ll practice recognizing and fixing sentences that are too long or incomplete.
- Spring Break: No workshop on Mar. 26*
- Apr. 02: **Strange Punctuation Explained: Dashes, Hyphens, and More**
Become a master of when to use en-dash vs. em-dash vs. hyphen.
- Apr. 09: **Make Your Paper “Flow”**
Does your writing flow? Learn three easy techniques to have good “flow.”
- Apr. 16: **How to Smoothly Include Supportive Quotes & Facts**
Discover the word choice, punctuation, and guidelines to quote ideas in essays.
- Apr. 23: **Stop Repeating Yourself! Say the Same Thing Differently**
Learn how to present similar ideas with different vocabulary and structures.
- Apr. 30: **Adding Detail with Phrases and Clauses**
Cinderella will help us add details to writing in a variety of ways!
- May 07: **Common Errors to Avoid**
This is an overview of errors that college writers typically make.

For information, email Belinda at ELI@ucmerced.edu.

Can't attend but want help? Find language resources at [eli.ucmerced.edu!](http://eli.ucmerced.edu)