



**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](mailto:ELI@ucmerced.edu).

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