



MEI NEWS

ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2014

Director's Corner

Welcome to this issue of *MEI News*, a **quarterly** newsletter of the Maryland English Institute (MEI) at the University of Maryland.

Every semester we have the **privilege** and pleasure at MEI of bringing together an extraordinary group of students, teachers, and scholars from around the world. MEI is now 33 years old, and we are more excited than ever about our future. As we continue to grow in numbers, diversity, and expertise, we remain **dedicated** to greater intercultural understanding and to English language learning and practice at the very highest levels in the most supportive environments.

We invite current MEI students and teachers as well as **alumni** and friends to share and participate in our expanding community. Send your contributions and latest news to mei-news@umd.edu.

We send our best wishes to all the English language learners here at MEI and around the world.

Dr. Elizabeth Driver, Director

The **blue bolded vocabulary words** throughout the newsletter go with the vocabulary crossword puzzle on page six. Test your knowledge of these words! Print the puzzle and complete it. Current MEI students, be the first to bring a correctly completed puzzle to Ms. Melanie in Cole 3111 to win a Starbucks gift card. Good luck! (Answers will be posted in the next newsletter).

Visit us at <http://mei.umd.edu> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/meiusa>



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In the past five years, students from more than 65 countries around the world have studied at MEI.

These countries are shown in green on the map.



There is no better way to get involved with the greater campus community, make friends outside of MEI, and practice your English in natural situations than by joining a student club at UMD. Check out some of the clubs featured on these pages, or visit http://orgsync.umd.edu/browse_student_organizations for more information.

GET INVOLVED

Student Clubs at the University of Maryland

WHAT'S UP AT MEI

- **March 17 - 28: No class (Spring Break)**
- **March 24 - 28: No class; TOEFL / IELTS classes held March 24 - 28**
- **April 9: MEI All-Institute Field Trip to the Newseum**
- **April 29 - May 2: Final Exams and Achievement Tests (IEP)**
- **May 6: Final conferences and Final Ceremony (IEP)**
- **June 10: Summer Session begins (IEP)**
- **July 25: Summer Session ends (IEP)**
- **September 2: Fall Semester begins**

Terps Boxing | <http://www.terpsboxing.com>

"The Terps Boxing Club is a sports-oriented club. They teach new members all of the boxing basics. The members can practice every Tuesday from 9-11 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8-10 p.m. in the School of Public Health (SPH). They do not need any **equipment**, because the club provides things like gloves, mitts, and punching bags. Anyone who wants to learn boxing can join this club. If you decide to join the club, you have to register at: http://crs.umd.edu/a/programs/sport_clubs_3/index.asp, and give them a payment of \$25 annual dues. I enjoyed learning about the Terps Boxing Club, and I am considering signing up."



-Sunwha Oh, South Korea

Habitat for Humanity | <http://www.umdhabitat.org>

"To fund and build simple, **decent** affordable housing for low income families. To involve individual students as well as student organizations and classes in working toward this common goal. To educate the University of Maryland community about the importance of eliminating poverty housing worldwide."

Hear the Turtle | <https://www.facebook.com/groups/heartheturtle/>

"The need to speak and present yourself confidently follows you everywhere, from job interviews, to class presentations, to **networking** events and parties. Hear the Turtle is a UMD chapter of Toastmasters International, an organization with 280,000 members in 116 countries, dedicated to developing members' communication and leadership skills."

Global Communities | <http://gcsa-umd.tumblr.com>

"The Global Communities Student Association **promotes** cultural values as well as understanding and cooperation between cultures through social and academic activities and events."

Project Hello Stranger | <http://www.projecthellostranger.com>

"Project Hello Stranger unites students at colleges and universities to develop a happier and friendlier campus by breaking down the social barriers that **inhibit** us from interacting with others."

Terp Runners | <http://www.terprunners.com>

"The Terp Runners mission is to support and encourage a healthy **approach** to running and training for all members of the University of Maryland with all levels of ability."

Rooftop Community Garden |

<https://www.facebook.com/UMDRooftopCommunityGardens>

"The Rooftop Community Garden embodies and inspires urban **sustainability** through hands on urban agriculture and food justice education. We seek to explore where our food comes and how to grow, preserve, prepare, and eat food in a way that is culturally appropriate and regenerative to our bioregion."

Engineers Without Borders | <http://ewb.umd.edu>

"The mission of "EWB" is to partner with **disadvantaged** communities to improve their quality of life through **implementation** of environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internationally responsible engineering students."

Sign Language Club |

<https://orgsync.com/64884/chapter>

"There was a fair **exhibiting** campus clubs during the fall semester. We went there and we wandered around to have an idea about the clubs. While I was wandering through the fair, a club attracted me. This club is called the University of Maryland Sign Language Club. They are going to teach us how to communicate with deaf



people. This means they will teach us the basics of sign language. I really liked the idea of the club and how they think. They are trying to help all kinds of people communicate with each other, even people who cannot speak. I admire these students for their respect for deaf people; they are making deaf people's lives easier. Actually, I didn't have a chance to sign up for this amazing club, but you can find more information about them on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/119356591520711/?fref=ts>. I hope that I can sign up now, because this would really be a new adventure for me, and I'm sure that I would like it."

-Mohammed Khayat, Saudi Arabia

The M E I GRAMMAR CORNER

Every issue, we will look at a specific topic in English grammar. In this issue, we look more closely at the use of the present perfect. If you have a question you would like us to address in a future **column**, send it to ask-mei@umd.edu.

1. Use the **present perfect + ever** to ask questions about experiences in someone's life:

Question: Have you **ever sent** an email to the wrong person?

Possible Answers: Yes, I **have**. OR No, I **haven't**.

Using the correct word order is very important:

Have/Has + subject + ever + past participle of main verb + complement of main verb

In the example above, the subject is "you," the main verb is "send" with past participle "sent," and the complement is "an email to the wrong person." (The pattern is, "send something to someone").

More examples:

Q: Have you **ever thought** about starting your own business?

A: Yes, I **have**. I want to open a restaurant.

Q: Has your brother **ever been** to Japan?

A: No, he **hasn't**.

NOTE "Ever" is only used in the question, not in the answer.

2. Use the **present perfect + never** to talk about things you have NOT done at any time in your life:

I've **never been** to Australia.

He **has never heard** of Britney Spears.

Jia **has never been** to the ocean.

They've **never told** a lie. I know we can trust them.

Again, the word order is very important: "**never**" goes between the **helping verb** (**have/has**) and the **past participle**.

REMEMBER

- **present perfect + ever** is used in questions
- **present perfect + never** is used in statements

CONVERSATION TIP

**Many conversations begin with a question in the present perfect, and then continue in the simple past with more specific questions:*

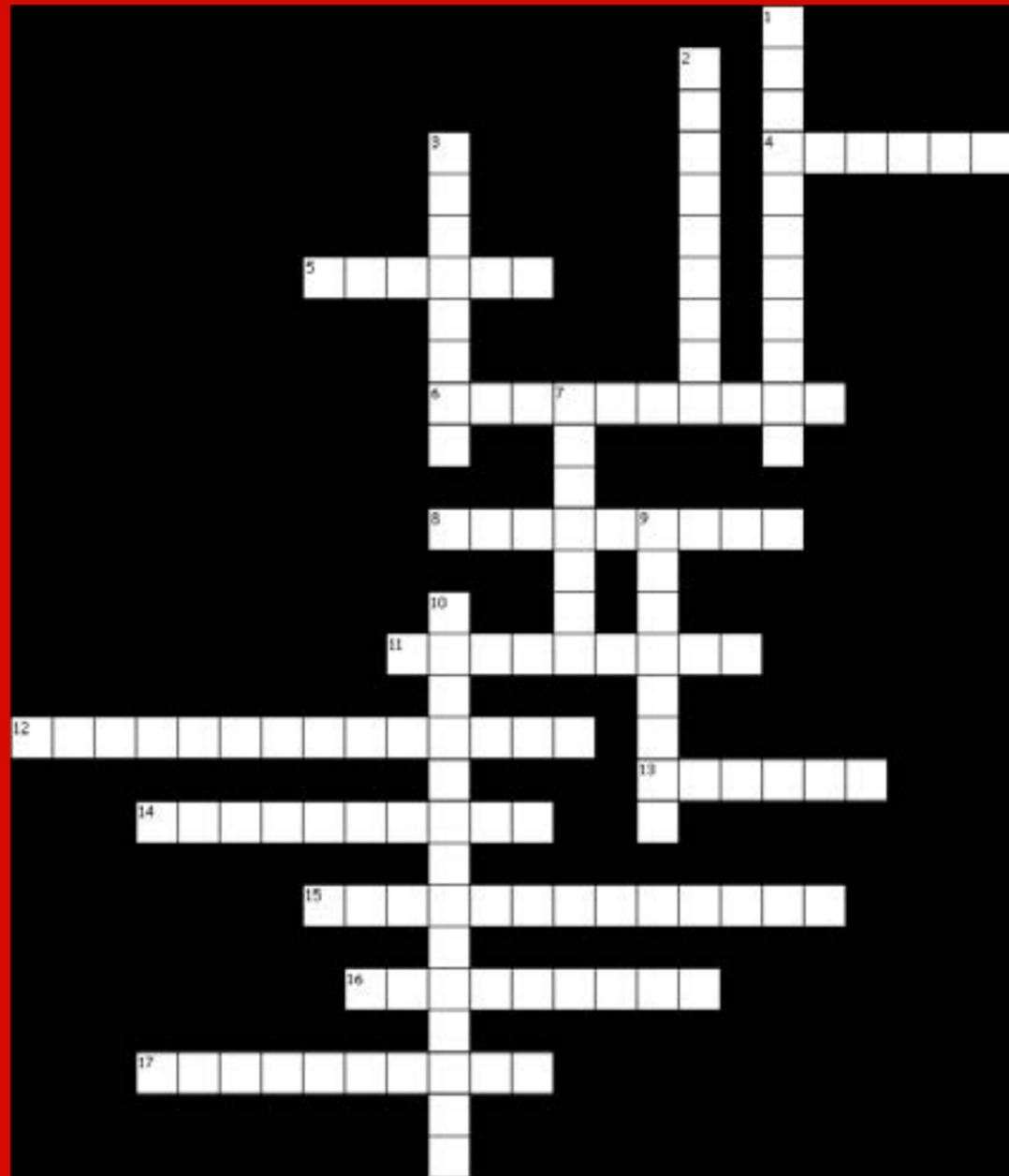
Have you ever sent an email to the wrong person?	starts in present perfect
Yes, I have. And it was embarrassing!	notice the shift to simple past
What happened?	simple past in follow-up question
I wrote an email to my girlfriend, but I accidentally sent it to my mother.	simple past in answer
Ouch!	expression of sympathy
Yeah. I'll never do that again.	notice the shift to "will never"

TEST YOURSELF

**Can you spot the errors in these sentences? Answers on Page 7.*

1. Have your sister ever been to Italy?
2. I has seen that movie never.
3. Has your father heard of Michael Jackson ever?
4. No, he has not ever heard of Michael Jackson.
5. I'm surprised he has never ate pizza.
6. Have you ever fell asleep in class?
7. Have they ever went to Japan?

VOCABULARY CROSSWORD



*Use the clues below to complete the puzzle. The answers in the puzzle are the blue, bolded vocabulary words found throughout the newsletter.

Across

Down

4. suitable, adequate, or acceptable.
 5. a graduate or former student of a school.
 6. showing something in a public place so that people can go to see it.
 8. committed.
 11. occurring four times a year.
 12. the process of putting a decision or plan into action.
 13. a section of a newspaper or magazine regularly devoted to a particular subject.
 14. achieving or producing a significant amount or result; valuable and profitable.
 15. people who face particular problems, often related to poverty, that make it more difficult to succeed.
 16. something regarded as a rare opportunity and an honor.
 17. interacting with people to exchange information, develop contacts, and improve your career.

1. the activity or skill of making things from wood.
 2. the tools, machines, clothes, etc that you need to do a particular job or activity.
 3. encourages and helps something to develop or increase.
 7. prevent someone from doing something.
 9. method or way of doing something.
 10. the ability to continue without causing damage to the environment

STUDENT POETRY

Where I come from...

A big country in south America
 Its name is Brazil
 You may think soccer and samba!
 Or going to a beach to chill

But like any other place out there
 Not everything is always cool...
 On the streets it's warfare
 And kids are out of school

The economy is growing fast
 And they want the world to see
 However they always forget
 To show what only I can see

The country is awesome, if you are rich
 Try being born in a poor family:
 High School?
 Most people will never reach

The best universities
 might be free
 But the inside of them
 Only rich boys get to be

Inequality, homelessness, and starvation...
 But hey, there is a world cup coming!
 Forget the bad things,
 we are the soccer nation!

-Felipe Pereira

Send your poetry to mei-news@umd.edu for a chance to be published in future issues of the newsletter.

My poem

I am from Saudi Arabia

A place that is known for its abundant oil

As a young girl, I wanted everything

And as I grow up, I want nothing but myself

Myself is a mystery that I wish to know

I have tried many paths, but I could not do so

Myself, please let me know you more

So I can help us to reach what we are looking for

No mater how long it might take

I believe I will know you and I will make the right choice

My teachers, and my friends will help me to hear my inner voice.

-Sarah Binsalman

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with MEI's newest faculty member, Mr. Daniel Ball



Q: Where were you before you joined us here at MEI last fall?

A: I was living in the Dallas, Texas area, teaching English at the University of North Texas.

Q: Have you taught English overseas?

A: Yes, I taught English in an academic high school for two years in Sendai, Japan.

Q: Can you speak Japanese?

A: Yes, I've studied both Japanese and French.

Q: Great! What advice do you have for MEI students about how to improve their English?

A: You have to make friends with and spend most of your time with people who don't speak your native language.

Q: When you're not busy teaching English, what do you enjoy doing?

A: I enjoy **woodworking**, which is what you can see me doing in the picture.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



MEI alumnus Christiano Francois (Haiti, 2013) recently signed on to play soccer for MLS team DC United. Chris played for the University of Maryland while a student at MEI, and we look

forward to watching him play professional soccer. Congratulations, Chris!

TEST YOURSELF ANSWERS

*Can you spot the errors in these sentences? (Questions on Page 5)

1. **Have** Has your sister ever been to Italy?
2. I **has** have **never** seen that movie **never**.
3. Has your father **ever** heard of Michael Jackson **ever**?
4. No, he has **not-ever** never heard of Michael Jackson.
5. I'm surprised he has never **ate** eaten pizza.
6. Have you ever **fell** fallen asleep in class?
7. Have they ever **went** gone to Japan?