

Highlights

- Paynes Prairie
- Birthdays
- Manners
- Grammar

The ELI Weekly

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Hiking on Paynes Prairie *Enjoy the Great Outdoors!*

Paynes Prairie is a 21,000-acre preserve about 15 minutes south of the University of Florida. It is covered by fields, wet prairie, pine flat-woods, and oak hammocks. It is a great place to see Florida wildlife such as buffalo, wild horses, alligators, otters, and even bald eagles! There is an observation tower and trails for hiking.

WHEN: Saturday, October 6th. Meet at the Norman Garage at 10:30 AM. We will return to Gainesville around 1 PM, depending on how long we hike for. This is a carpool trip, so you must sign up on the activities board by 4 PM Thursday, October 4th. If it is raining on Saturday, call 392-3354 ext. 230 after 9 AM and listen to the message to find out if the trip has been cancelled.

COST: \$4 per car (about \$1 per person).

WHAT TO BRING: Bring a backpack with-

1. **WATER** – *you must bring water to go on this trip!*
2. Sunscreen
3. A bag **LUNCH** (no coolers). There is no food at the prairie!
4. Wear tennis shoes and old clothing appropriate for the weather.

Notes from the Office

- **Fake IDs**-Not that we think that our students would do such a thing, but there are occasional rumors. Once in a while we like to remind you that certain things can be more serious than some people think they might be. A couple of years ago, Florida changed its laws regarding using a fake ID to purchase alcohol and made it much, much more serious. The penalty is up to 5 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine...and a foreign student is subject to immediate deportation for a felony. It's a big, big risk!
- **Lost and Found**-Don't forget to check in the main office from time to time for lost and found items. We keep a large box with items that have been found in our classrooms and turned in.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding a **Football Party**, right here in Gainesville. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 5-11:

Students:

October 5: Karen Hoyos

October 7: Hyun Jeong Lee

October 7: Alwaleed Albazaie

October 8: Jean Garcia Padron

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why can't I ask Americans if they are rich or how much money they make?

A: In US culture, most any personal question that has a number or some kind of measurement as an answer is considered taboo. We believe that it is rude to ask about things that might be compared in terms of feeling superior in one way or another. Money is perhaps the one that is the most taboo—my best friend and I don't even know each other's salaries!

*Q: Why is my reading/writing class at 3pm?
It is very late, so it is difficult to concentrate.*

A: Interestingly, you will hear the same complaint from students whose classes begin at 8:30am...it's very early, so it's difficult to concentrate. The fact is, folks, that we have 5 class hours a day of core classes. We have 9 levels of reading/writing and only 7 classrooms. That means that some classes will be at the beginning of the schedule and some at the end. When you start going to regular university classes, you will find that you have an even wider range of class hours...note that on the university schedule, 8:30 is *second* period...the regular schedule starts at 7:25am and can go as late as 8 or 9pm!

Q: Why do American girls like the French accent?

A: It's a popular cultural notion that French is the language of romance and love.

Q: Why do American women always wear small shorts?

A: Not all of them do, but short shorts are very fashionable these days. It's not just American women...it seems like quite a few of our own students also wear them.

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between "gonna" and "gotta"?

A: Both of these are called *reductions*. They're written versions of the way we actually speak certain phrases. "Gonna" is a reduction of the future expression "going to" and "gotta" is a reduction of the modal expression of necessity "have got to". Some others are "shoulda/woulda/coulda"—"should/would/could have" and "wanna"—"want to".

Quote of the Week

We must use time as a tool, not as a crutch.

--John F. Kennedy

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