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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, November 10th, we are holding our next **Volunteer Day** of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, November 8th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Bingo at North Florida Rehab— Come play bingo with the elderly at North Florida Rehab and Specialty Care Center! Practice speaking English while playing games with new friends. Meet us at Norman Garage at 1pm, and we will return around 4pm.

Family Fishing Day — Family Fishing Day is an event put on by UF as an activity to help the underprivileged youth of Gainesville. We can catch (and release) a catfish, bluegill or sunshine bass; and soak up a little sunshine. Come get to know a few of your Gainesville neighbors. We will volunteer to help make this event a success. We will also help serve lunch to the families. We will meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 10am and return around 1pm.

Race for the Children — Come participate in a 5K race to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital. Support the cause by running or walking in the event, or handing out water to the participants during the race. Registration is \$10 (if you want to walk or run) and begins at 7:30am the day of the race at Pony Field on Gale Lemerand Drive, or you can pre-register online at <http://grove.ufl.edu/~pso//race/>. The race will start at 8:30am. There will be FREE snacks and drinks for everyone! Meet your LA at 7:50am at the Reitz Union Information Desk so we can walk over together. We will be finished around 10am.

Have a great day, everyone!

B-Term Countries

We have a very large number of countries represented among our B-Term Students! The following is our representation, based on the countries of students' passports:

Bolivia	Korea
Brazil	Niger
Burkina Faso	Senegal
China	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Taiwan
France	Thailand
Germany	Turkey
Japan	Venezuela
Kazakhstan	

Costume Contest Winners

Here are the winners of the ELI Halloween Party Costume Contest:

Best Male Costume:

1. Youngsik Chung (Elijah)
2. Scott Davis
3. Ricardo Morgado

Best Female Costume:

1. Karen Hoyos
2. Heather Goode
3. Maria Bragado

Congratulations to all! There is a \$10 gift certificate to the Regal Cinemas movie theatre in Butler Plaza for the TOP WINNER of each category. Come see Noreen or Chanelle to pick up your prize!

Notes from the Office

- **Our New Student Life Assistant**—If you haven't had a chance yet, stop by the main office and give a warm welcome to our new Student Life Assistant, Daïre Seaman!
- **Travel and I-20's**—Even though it's a bit early, there are several holidays coming up. Do remember that if you travel outside the country during this time, you will need to get your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office before you go, in order to ensure that

you will be able to return to the US when the holiday is over!

- **Class Attendance**—Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.



The Next Trip

Our next trip will be our annual **ELI Thanksgiving Dinner** on Friday, November 16th. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are the ELI Birthdays for the period November 9-15:

Students:

November 9: Hyun Young Cho
November 9: Charles Edouard de Gentile
November 9: Yu Ju Tseng
November 11: Yasuko Ochiai
November 13: Mert Güner

Staff:

November 9: Lia Brenneman

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans call dogs "he" or "she"?

A: It's not just dogs...it's pets in general. Many people here consider pets basically as part of the family. It would be unthinkable therefore to refer to that member of the family as "it".

Q: Why is it incorrect to call my teacher "teacher"?

A: Every society has different rules and customs for what to call people in positions of authority.

In US society, we only address our teachers as "teacher" when we are very young children, if at all. Otherwise, we call our teachers by Mr. or Ms. and the family name. In college, when many teachers hold doctoral degrees, we address them as Dr. or Professor along with the last name.

Here at the ELI, we do want to foster a more collegial and team atmosphere. Most of the teachers here do not have Doctorates; the Masters is considered the high degree for teaching ESL. Use of the first name here is considered a preferred choice.

Q: Why do American people cross the roads against the traffic signals?

A: There are a lot of incredibly stupid people in the US, apparently.

Q: In my country, I can't wear flip-flops to school, but here it is obviously common. Why?

A: And you'll find that it's even different from place to place here in the US. Fashion and what is/is not acceptable at school is a very regional thing here. For example, your Manners Columnist is a teacher here at the ELI, and I wear shorts most every day. In some universities in northern, cooler climates, this would be very unusual. However, here in Gainesville, fashion is different because it follows the warmer weather patterns, and it's a good thing...because most days,

I'd probably come to class drenched in sweat otherwise!

The same convention applies to footwear. Gainesville and a great deal of Florida just have different rules regarding the appropriateness of various fashion trends.

Grammar

Q: When do we use "at" vs. "in"?

A: Gosh, that's a tall order! Preposition use in English is very, very situation specific. That means basically that there's a lot of memorizing involved to get the whole picture.

One area in which students often have a lot of confusion, however, is the use of these two prepositions when referring to where you are in relation to a house or a building. Basically, "at" in this case is the more general. Let's say you call home to say that you're going to be late. You would say you're "at the office" or "at Joe's house". It doesn't matter whether you are actually inside of the four walls of either space—you could be standing outside in front of your office or of Joe's house. On the other hand, "in" is used to distinguish location of inside or outside of the spaces that are close by where you are actually standing. Let's say you're standing in front of your office building, and someone asks you where your boss is, and he's already inside the building. In this case, you would say that he's "in his office already".

Quote of the Week

I am where I am because I believe in all possibilities.

Whoopi Goldberg

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