

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Paintball!

*Come out and have some fun!*

This Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> we are going to play **Paintball!**

Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:30 pm. We will return mid- to late afternoon. If it is raining on Saturday, call 273-4395 after 10am to find out if the trip has been cancelled or postponed.

Cost: The cost of paintball will be \$17-\$25 for a basic package. This will cover the rental fee for your gun and safety equipment, use of the field, and 200 paint bullets.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 4pm.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Paintball is not a dangerous game, but the paint bullets can sting. For this reason, **you should wear clothes that can get dirty with long sleeves and long pants.** Dark colored clothing is best so that you are more camouflaged. Also, because we will be in the woods, you should wear sneakers. You might get hot, so **BRING WATER!**

So come and play!

## Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**—Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one!
- **Smoking**—Remember, folks, that there is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. If you need to smoke, speak to your LAs about places where it might be acceptable.
- **Personal Belongings**—Unfortunately, some of our students find out the hard way that it's never a good idea to leave your personal belongings unattended, even if it's just for a few minutes. If you have to leave an area, such as an empty classroom before class or your table in the library, be sure and take your stuff with you to ensure that you still have it when you return!

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the semester.

Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from January 21-27:

Students:  
January 24: Florian Batteux  
January 24: Douglas Velazquez-Cortez

Staff:  
January 26: Joel Deacon

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## Recreational Facilities

There has been some confusion about the use of UF recreational facilities. ELI students are able to use the pools, Lake Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts by showing their Gator 1 card.

On the other hand, ELI students do **not** have access to the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, Southwest Recreation Center and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center without paying a membership fee because these

facilities are funded by UF degree-seeking student activity fees.

## ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Bolivia	Korea
Brazil	Kuwait
Canada	Libya
Chile	Oman
China	Panama
Colombia	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Spain
France	Switzerland
Greece	Taiwan
Haiti	Turkey
Honduras	UAE
Iran	United States
Italy	Venezuela
Japan	

## Manners and Culture

*Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.*

Interesting you should ask; usually, we don't have any questions yet, and I run a tip column instead of a manners column. So, I'm going to give you my standard answer!

Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes

from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

**Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors:** 15 to 20% of the total bill

**Hotels:** Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total--sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

**Parking:** Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

**Pizza Delivery:** \$1 per pizza

**Restaurants:** 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour--less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

**Taxis:** \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many

grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

*Q: Why do Americans like beer so much?*

A: It seems that way, doesn't it? You're in a college town, and college students tend to drink more beer than a lot of the population at large. It's a fairly inexpensive way to consume alcohol. The US, though, isn't even in the top 10 when it comes to per capita beer consumption--we rank only 13<sup>th</sup>. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

## Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

## Quote of the Week

The usual fortune of complaint is to excite contempt more than pity.

– Samuel Johnson

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