

Highlights

- Valentine Masquerade
- Notes from the Office

- Birthdays
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

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Valentine's Day Masquerade

Celebrate!

Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 by many people throughout the world. In the West, it is the traditional day on which friends and lovers express their affection for each other by sending Valentine's Day cards and presenting flowers.

The ELI will be hosting a Valentine's Day Party to celebrate this holiday. It will be a masquerade, so wear a mask and something red.

We will have

- ♥ live music
- ♥ photo booth- free to your email or \$1 for photo
- ♥ trivia game with prizes
- ♥ billiards tournament
- ♥ prizes!!

When: Friday, February 12th from 8:00pm to 11:00pm

Where: The Polos clubhouse

What to bring: Please bring some Valentine's candy or a snack to share.

Join us!

Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break and I-20s**
Spring break is only three weeks away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada or Mexico—please remember to come to the office to have your I-20 signed so that you won't have trouble getting back into the country!
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be headed for **Paynes Prairie** right here in Gainesville. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 11-17:

Students:

February 12: Nicole Wright
February 12: Rosamarina Salas-Velasquez
February 15: Pantea Nayebi
February 17: Katherine Castro
February 17: Bruna Santos

Staff:
None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Other than scrambled, how can I order my eggs in a restaurant?

A: Fried, sunny side up (not turned and yolk unbroken and liquid); fried, over easy (turned and lightly cooked on the yolk side); fried, over medium; fried, over hard; hard boiled; soft boiled; poached (broken open and cooked in a little bit of water); and various types of omelets.

Q: Why is public transportation poor in most American cities?

A: With the exception of the very large cities in the Northeast and Upper Midwest (which for the most part have excellent transportation systems), our cities are very young. They didn't really grow to be large until after the invention of the

automobile. And in some cities that had streetcars at the turn of the 19th into the 20th century, it was actually cheaper to build roads than to maintain the streetcars at that time. So, our cities grew up around the use of the automobile, and the vast distances were easiest to cross by superhighway once that was established. Now, we are discovering the need to change the system!

Q: I'm curious about commercials, I often see one brand compared with the other rival brand and they mention the exact rival brand name and I think kind of ignore them. How it can be possible? Does anybody get upset about it?

A: Quite possibly. But it's perfectly legal. The only rule within the law is that you can't make false or unproven claims about either your own product or the rival product. For example, you can say that in a blind taste test, your product was tastier than the other product—but you have to actually have the test results to back that claim up.

Q: Why don't people here use an umbrella when it's raining?

A: A lot of us do. Heck, I even bought an extra big one because last winter has been an unusually rainy

one. However, there are a lot of optimists and forgetful people and people who just don't check the weather before they leave their homes. And, I'm sure there's even a small minority of people who simply like to get wet.

Q: Is the rumor true that American girls don't like foreign guys?

A: I don't know for sure from personal experience. I'm an American guy, so I can't quite put myself in either shoe. I can tell you, though, that over the 17 years I've been here at the ELI, I have seen American guys dating female ELI students, I have seen American girls dating male ELI students, and I've even seen a couple of examples of American guys dating male ELI students and of American girls and female ELI students dating. All of this is in addition to the many ELI students I've seen dating each other! So, I'd say from observation alone that it's just a rumor, or at least an incorrect overgeneralization.

Grammar

Q: Which one is correct, "It's me" or "It's I"? When I am knocking at the door, should I say "It's me" or "It's I"?

A: This is one of my favorites. First of all, we would never, ever make the contraction with "I". It would be "It is I." However, this conundrum gets to the heart of what we call **prescriptive** grammar vs. **descriptive** grammar and how silly the arguments can get.

The correct statement, according to the strict older rules of grammar, is "It is I." However, the vast majority of native speakers of English have abandoned that structure, in favor of "It's me." What this means is simply that it is an example of how language changes over time. The error eventually becomes the rule. Sure, you can say, "It is I." But you're going to sound like there's something wrong with you unless there's a very strict older grammar person on the other side of that door.

Quote of the Week

Love is the greatest refreshment in life.

--Pablo Picasso

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