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The ELI Weekly

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Paynes Prairie

More outdoor fun!

This Saturday, February 19th, come out for **Hiking on Paynes Prairie!**

We will walk along the La Chua Trail on Paynes Prairie. You will see lots of **Alligators** and other fantastic wildlife.

When: We will meet at the Norman Garage at 10am.

What to wear/bring: Wear closed-toed shoes! Bring water, sun block, and a picnic lunch.

Cost: FREE.

Join us!

Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break and I-20s** Spring Break is a week and a half away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or the Bahamas—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!
- **ELI T-Shirts**--Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-

Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Judith in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

The Next Trip

For the next two weekends, there will be no scheduled activities due to midterms and Spring Break. Our next activity, the following weekend, on March 12th, will be our Welcome Picnic for the new B-Term students. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in that week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 18-24:

Students:

February 20: Reem Aldalbahi

February 23: Ali Alsheraifi

February 24: Yahya Albkuri

February 24: Fahad Alghamdi

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is a essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Q: Is there a time when Americans leave the home with no help from the parents? When?

A: It's a common misconception that parents somehow throw their kids out automatically at 18 and tell them to sink or swim. It's very much a matter of individual families. In the US, independence in all forms is a cornerstone of our culture, but that doesn't mean that all support is just automatically cut off at some magical point or age. Heck, I'm 46 and my parents STILL help me out sometimes just because they want to! Some families are more connected

than others, but our personal identity is also very important to us.

Q: Why does the girl's family pay for the wedding?

A: Tradition. Weddings in the US still have more older forms of etiquette attached to them than there are with most any other social function.

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of “to be” or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it. That being said, there are dialects of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it’s necessary.

Q: What does the future perfect express?

A: That one action will be completed before a fixed point or another action in the future.

Q: What's the difference between “too many” and “so many”?

A: “Too” is an expression that means there is an excess beyond what is

tolerable. It’s generally considered a negative expression. “So” in this context means “very”. It just means that there is more than expected, but it’s still on the good side of the line of tolerance. This usage of “so” is only conversational, and it should never be used in formal writing.

Quote of the Week

The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.

Ludwig Wittgenstein

UF English Language Institute
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

English Language Institute

PO Box 117051

315 Norman Hall

Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA

Phone: (352) 392-2070

Fax: (352) 392-3744

Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu

Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu