

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Rock Climbing at Lake Wauburg

A day of fun in the sun!

On Saturday, April 2nd, Come join the ELI as we climb the 53-foot wall at the Lake Wauburg South Shore. It's a fun and exciting outdoor sport.

You do not want to climb? That's ok! You can play horseshoes or soccer. There's canoeing, hiking, and a large area for having a picnic with your language assistants and friends! Meet at the Norman Garage at 11am.

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

Cost: FREE. Bring your UF ID.

Notes from the Office

- **Library Fines and Infirmary Fees**—Since we're coming closer to the end of the semester, we just want to remind you that now is a good time to think about clearing up any fees and fines that you might have with the university. If there are any outstanding balances owed, we won't be able to release any of your academic information or certificates to you, and you will not be permitted to take the ELI TOEFL.

- **Travel and I-20s**--Don't forget, if you are planning to leave the country during the break between semesters and then return to the US, you must have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office (Room 315) in order to be allowed back into the country!

Next Weekend

Next Weekend, on Saturday, April 9th we will be going to the **Santa Fe College Spring Arts Festival!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from April 1-7:

Students:
April 3: Badr Shumsaddin
April 3: Adriana Tascon Lopez
April 3: Tarfah Al-Shammari
April 4: Martina Scaletta
April 6: Israa Albassri
April 7: Absulrahman Alnasser

Staff:
None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Grammar

Q: What is the most common exclamation for Americans in each emotion? When do they say it?

For example:

Surprise -> Really?

Shock -> Oh, my God!

Amazement -> Wow!

Anger -> Sh__! (You know)

A: Your question is difficult to answer completely, mainly because there are so many variations, even regionally (and according to audience), as to how we express strong emotion.

Those are all good, really, though that last one by itself is more commonly used for sudden pain or clumsiness, such as situations when you hit yourself on the finger with a hammer or you drop your glass of cola all over the white carpet—and that one is very dependent on your audience. It's not something that most of us would say in front of our grandmothers, for example. Also, the use of "God", as in your shock example, is considered to be possibly offensive to some people—be careful about using that one, too!

This is a good time to mention that you might want to ask your Language Assistants in your Listening/Speaking classes about the Curse Words Activity, as well as about other idioms that we use when we want to express strong emotions!

Q: "If I were a child, I would read a lot of books." In this example, why isn't it, "If I was a child...?"

A: This is an unreal conditional. That is, in this statement, you're not now a child, so that's an unreal situation. In an unreal present/future conditional, we use what is called the past subjunctive in the "if" clause. In every verb but one, that looks exactly the same as the simple past. The exception

is the verb "to be", in which case we use only the "were" form. It reads the same way no matter what the subject is, including "I" and "he/she/it". So, you would also say, "If he were a child..." the same way.

Manners and Culture

Q: What are the traditional foods in the US?

A: There's no one really good answer. The US is made up of many different regions, each with its own foods and customs. Mainly, you will find that hamburgers are favorites around the country, and the formerly Southern specialty fried chicken is really popular, too. In the Northeast, seafood is very popular. In the South, heavy fried

foods, vegetables cooked in fat, and biscuits are the norm. In the Midwest, corn is probably the most ubiquitous food. In Texas and the Southwest, it's beef and northern Mexican spices. And in the Pacific Northwest, Salmon is very popular. Generally, you will find that most Americans have bread and potatoes as their starches, but there are variations on that, too!

Quote of the Week

The easiest thing in the world to be is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position.
Leo Buscaglia



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