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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Midterms

No trip this week, folks!

This coming weekend, Saturday, February 23rd, there is no scheduled ELI trip. We have this break from trips because many ELI classes will be having Midterm Exams next week, and we want to give you plenty of time to study. Our next trip will be on Saturday, March 1st, for **Rock Climbing**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

- **Student Mail**—There is quite a bit of mail in the student mailbox. It's the smoke-colored tray immediately to the right of the door to the ELI Main Office, Room 315. Be sure to check from time to time to see if you have anything in!
- **Lost and found**—If you are missing any items, or if you find anything in the classroom that obviously belongs to someone, we do keep a lost and found box in the Main Office.
- **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. Many students are already having some issues with absence; if you're not sure of your absences, you should check with your teachers to

make sure you're not going over the limits.

- **Student Immunization Records**—Students, if you gave us original immunization forms at the beginning of the semester, please remember to pick them up in the main office. We've been holding many of them since check-in.

New Activities Schedule

We have revised our afternoon activities schedule; remember always, though, to check the Activities Board for any changes!

Activity	Date	Location
Volleyball Kathy	Monday 4:30 p.m.	Meet at Norman Garage Free Bring UF ID
Pool and Bowling Amy	Tuesday 4:30 p.m.	Meet at Norman Garage Bring UF-ID and about \$5
Coffee Talk Max and Heather	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	Meet at the Orange and Brew Bring Money for coffee
Ultimate Frisbee with Josh's UF group Josh	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	Meet at Norman Field Free

Soccer David	Thursday 4:30pm	Meet at Norman Garage Free
Gator Nights Jon and Jessica	Friday 6:00 p.m.	Meet at the Reitz Union Information Desk Free Bring UF ID

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 22-28:

- Students:
February 25: Roxane Boardaries
February 25: Suk Gun Hong
February 28: Kyeong Mee Kim

- Staff:
February 26: Channelle Strammer
February 28: Heeral Chibber
February 28: Sneha Patel

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why isn't there a schedule or itinerary for student progression?

A: There is. But it's based on what students are capable of producing and

understanding...not on artificial time constraints or social promotion. Language learning is a process that requires hard work and dedication on the part of the student; sitting in class and saying that you've done that already does not mean anything if you can't apply it. We can't open your heads and pour in language or take a big hypodermic and inject you with language on some sort of schedule. You folks are human beings—not robots. There are no shortcuts.

Q: What is the traditional food in the US?

A: This country is so large and diverse with so many cultural backgrounds and traditions that there really is no one single American food. Sure, fast food was started here, but that is only about 60 years old. We do have lots of regional cuisines. There is a tradition of wonderful seafood dishes in the Northeast, for example. In the South, we have lots of dishes that have been handed down for generations; fried chicken is pretty much a southern invention. New Orleans, Texas, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York are all famous for certain dishes that combine old and new and some international traditions. One thread that does seem pretty common in American (and in most European) cuisine

is that we do seem to eat a lot of bread with our meals.

The following are 2 very closely related questions with one answer:

Q: Why do American people leave their families at 18?

Q: Why aren't American people close to their families?

A: We are close to our families. It's just that our definitions of how to show it and the things that are important to us in how we live our lives are different from many other cultures. In the American psyche, one of the principal values held is a fierce devotion to independence and individuality. This is reflected, obviously, in how we conduct our lives once it's time to leave the nest. We have a drive and a need to establish ourselves as individual contributing members of society; this means, to many of us, establishing an identity separate from our parents and from our siblings. This does not mean that we do not love these people—or that we don't want to spend time with them or be around them—just look at the airline schedules and prices on Thanksgiving (the biggest family holiday of the year). We talk to our families, share our thoughts and dreams and

accomplishments, and generally have a good time with them. Just not all the time!

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "used to" and "be used to"?

One is a modal, and the other is a phrasal verb expression. The expression "used to" is a modal that means, "did for a period of time in the past but not anymore". It's used only with the base form of a verb, as in, "I used to travel to Disney World every weekend." The other expression, "be used to" means, "accustomed to" or "comfortable with". It's used for something current—that is, something that we feel like we can easily do and we don't mind doing it. "I am used to traveling to Disney World every weekend. I can't imagine going anywhere else!"

Quote of the Week

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

—Oprah Winfrey



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