

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 105, Issue 8  
February 29, 2008*



## Rock Climbing at Lake Wauburg

*Enjoy an afternoon in the great Florida outdoors!*

This coming weekend, Saturday, March 1st, we are going **Rock Climbing at Lake Wauburg**. They have a great rock-climbing wall that presents a wonderful challenge!

If you would like to get out and join us, but rock climbing's not for you, that's ok! You can play frisbee golf or soccer. There's canoeing, hiking, and a large area for having a picnic with your language assistants and friends!

We will meet at the NRN Garage at 11:30 am and carpool to Lake Wauburg.

**What to wear/bring:** Wear closed-toe shoes. Bring water, sunblock and a picnic lunch.

**Cost:** FREE!! Bring your UF ID.

## Notes from the Office

- **Travel and I-20s**—Don't forget, everyone—if you are planning to leave the country during the upcoming Spring Break Holiday, you must have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office as soon as possible so that you will be able to re-enter the country!
- **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. Don't wait until the last minute or the end of the semester when it's already too late for you to do anything about it!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 29-March 6:

Students:  
None this week!

Staff:  
March 3: Barbara Earp  
March 4: Debbie Neuzil  
March 6: Debbie Kellermann  
March 6: Sonja Pealar

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: In Gainesville, can I visit a botanical garden?*

A: Oh, yes. Just southwest of town on Archer Road, 1 mile beyond I-75, is the Kanapaha Botanical Garden. You can visit their website at [www.kanapaha.org](http://www.kanapaha.org). It's a 62-acre facility with a very large array of plant life and exhibits. Admission to the gardens is \$6, and you can get there on the #75 bus. If you're a real horticulture buff, they hold their annual Spring Garden Festival on Saturday and Sunday March 29 and 30 this year—you can get more information on the festival on the website.

*Q: Why don't Americans care for the elderly in their own homes?*

A: A complex question! First of all, some people do. For many of us, however, the answer is related to the answer that we ran last week about us being close to our families. Americans are a fiercely independent group. Many of us, once we have been out on our own and established an identity that is separate from that of our parents, would have a very difficult time living with them again. Just the same, many older parents would have a very difficult time even admitting that they might need that much help from their adult children—and many just plain

can't stand the idea of losing their independence and autonomy! Even with all that in mind, many of us struggle with this question—it's a difficult balance between addressing people's needs and protecting that independence.

## Grammar

*Q: Why do Americans use so many phrasal verbs?*

A: Honestly, it's not just Americans...it's the nature of the English language. English is a Germanic language at its heart, and the Germanic languages are full of examples of this structure. Even the Latin-based languages (English is also full of expressions that came primarily from French) use quite a few. The upshot is, we have a lot of them, and the preposition used can change the meaning

of the verb completely. This is one of the things that are most difficult for grammar teachers and students alike (the other main one is gerunds vs. infinitives)—there really is no logic to the system. It's a matter mainly of vocabulary, memorization, and practice to understand the differences.

*Q: What's the difference between "might" and "can"?*

A: It depends on the usage. In general, "can" refers to ability, and "might" refers to unresolved intentions: "I can move 100 boxes," means that one has the general strength and stamina to move 100 boxes, whereas "I might move 100 boxes," means that the speaker isn't sure whether or not to move those boxes. On the other hand, these two words can be completely synonymous in a suggestion,

along with "could": "Where do you want to eat tonight?" "We can/could/might try that new restaurant if you want to."

## Quote of the Week

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

--Steve Jobs



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