

Highlights

- Volunteer Day
- Birthdays
- Tax Forms
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while learning English!

This Saturday, March 29th, we are holding our second **Volunteer Day** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet at the NRN Garage and carpool to the different sites. Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, March 27th.

There is no cost to volunteer.

- ❖ Volunteer with **Morningside Nature Center** from 9-11am and help save Gainesville from invasive plants! Meet at Norman Garage at 8:45am to carpool to the nature site. We will be volunteering with students from Santa Fe Community College, so get ready to meet new friends! Don't forget to wear comfortable clothes to work outside.
- ❖ Come help serve lunch for people without homes at the

St. Francis Homeless Shelter from 10am-1pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 9:45am. Wear comfortable clothes, closed-toed shoes, and a bandana or hat for your hair!

- ❖ Help build houses for families in need with **Habitat for Humanity** from 8am-2pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 7:30am to carpool to the construction site. We will be volunteering with students from the University of Florida! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers for working outside.

Have a great day, everyone!

Next Weekend

Next weekend, on Saturday, April 5th, we will be here in Gainesville for the annual **Spring Arts Festival**. More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Student Voices Deadline

It's *ELI Student Voices* time, everyone! Steve wants us to let you know that the deadline for submissions for this

semester will be on Friday, April 11th. You can give your submissions to your teacher, to Steve directly, or you may place them in Steve's mailbox (marked *Flocks*) in the ELI Main Office, Room 315. Let's see what you can come up with!

IRS Tax Forms

All international students are required to file a tax form in the United States. You are required to file this form, even if you have no income. The deadline to file if you have no income is June 15. The deadline to file if you have income from any source other than bank interest (like an on-campus job), is April 15.

You can find the form you need to complete and the directions on how to complete it at:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

You can also find many answers to your questions on the UF International Center tax page:

<http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/taxesfaq.htm>

You can also always make an appointment to speak with Barbara if you have questions.

Don't forget!

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from March 28-April 3:

Students:

March 28: Maria Dantas

March 28: Esperanza Rebollo

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do people in the US shake hands rather than hugging and kissing?

A: It's purely a matter of the culture in which we were raised. In some cultures, particularly those that sprung up around the Mediterranean, people express greeting with great enthusiasm. In Eastern countries, for the most part, people don't touch at all in greeting. In the northern areas of Europe (including England, from which many US behaviors came), the custom developed somewhere in between these extremes—the handshake was established as a norm.

Q: Why is American football more important than soccer in the US?

A: Mainly, it's tradition and habit. For many, many years, since the early 20th Century, it has been a big tradition on American college campuses to cheer for your football team, and we have many well-established rivalries (such as UF vs. FSU). In the 1960s, we carried this forward logically to the professional area (that's when the Superbowl was born), and it's just been that way ever since. Even when they're internationally popular, it's difficult sometimes to replace old traditions with new ones—especially when they already have so much attention and so many resources!

Grammar

This week, we're addressing a procedural question that we get quite often!

Q: What's the difference between the paper TOEFL and the iBT TOEFL?

A: Well, for one thing, your institutional paper TOEFL isn't really designed for college admissions—and if you plan to use it as such, it's only accepted at the institution that administers it. This means UF in our case, but you cannot depend on your department accepting it (check with them to be sure), and you only get

ONE official score. If you need a test for admission to any other school, then you must arrange with ETS to take an iBT.

As to the substance of the tests, they're very, very different.

The paper TOEFL has three sections: Listening, Structure, and Reading. In the listening section, you cannot take any notes (it's considered cheating if you do), and the focus is mainly on academic English. We do not have a writing section on our Institutional TOEFL.

On the iBT, there is no Structure section. You have Listening, Speaking (yes, they actually record your voice!), Reading, and Writing. You may take notes freely. There are two essays—one is a traditional TOEFL essay, and the other is a synthesis of a reading and a lecture.

Quote of the Week

Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires avid faith in yourself. That is why some people with mediocre talent, but with great inner drive, go much further than people with vastly superior talent.

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