

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, May 24th, we are holding our first **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, and staff will meet and head to the different sites. Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, May 22nd. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

Retirement Home for Horses— Help care for aging and abandoned horses in a fun environment. Be sure to wear sneakers! We will meet at 8:15am at the Norman Garage and return around 12noon.

Summerville— Come and play Bingo, chess, and other board games and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time!! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 1:30pm and return around 4pm.

Haven Hospice Thrift Shop— Come help Haven Hospice sort and sell donated clothes to raise money for people in need at the Haven Hospice Store! We will meet at Norman Garage at 10:15am and return around 2:30pm.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Kristen in the CIP Office, Room 318. Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the 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.
- **Student Mailbox**—Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.
- **Memorial Day Holiday**—In case you missed it on your calendar, this coming Monday is Memorial Day. There will be no classes and our office will be closed. Banks, the Post Office, and some businesses will also close. Also, there will be no bus service.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Universal Studios Florida** in Orlando. If you want to purchase a \$25 Transportation Pass to go on the trip, meet at the NRN Garage at 1:15 on Friday, May 23rd, and we will walk over with you. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Daily Activities

The following is our afternoon activity schedule. Please check the Activities Board from time to time to see if there are any changes.

Day/Time	Activity	Location
Monday 7:00 PM	Swimming (Charlotte)	Meet at O'Connell Center Pool (Mon. May 19 only- Meet at Norman Garage at 6:30) Bring your Gator1 ID
Tuesday 11:00-1:00	Chow and Chat (Venita and Marie)	Picnic tables outside the Florida Room Free

Wednesday 4:30-7:30 PM (If you have class until 5:00, join us afterwards.)	Coffee Talk (Megan)	Meet at Nrn Garage to take Bus #1 Bring money for coffee and food if you want
Thursday 8:00	Ultimate Frisbee (Josh)	Meet at NRN Garage Free
Friday 6:00	Movie Night (Sarah and Robyn)	Meet at Norman Garage Bring money for a movie and snacks. Bring your Gator1 ID

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of May 23-29:

Students:

May 28: Jae Sook Bae
May 28: Yeongju Kim

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: I'm interested in manners about having meals. What should I not do when I am eating with Americans?

A: Oh, goodness, there are entire etiquette books with half of their chapters dedicated to mealtime etiquette! There are a few general guidelines, though.

1. Don't make noises with your food. When eating soup, for example, don't slurp. Just put the spoon in your mouth and eat quietly.
2. Talking during a meal is fine, but don't talk with your mouth full. Wait until you swallow.
3. Don't eat foods with your fingers that aren't designed for it. Hamburgers and sandwiches and chips are fine, but most other foods (unless you are actually eating at a fast-food restaurant) should be eaten with utensils.
4. It's okay to offer to share your food if you want to, but we generally don't ask to try something that's on someone else's plate.
5. Don't reach across someone else to get the salt, sugar, ketchup, etc. Ask that it be passed to you.

6. It's fine to refuse a food if you can't eat it—be it for dietary reasons or religious reasons or whatever. You don't have to explain why. In fact, to do so extensively is considered bad form—especially if it's just because you don't like a certain food. If your host asks, it's rude of her/him.

Grammar

Q: How can I use the word, "people"? For example, is it, "The people is..." or "The people are..."

A: 99.999% of the time, the word is plural. I save that 0.001% for the use when we are talking about an entire culture, but the structure you would see would be something along the lines of this: "The Native Americans are a proud people." You wouldn't likely see this in the subject position in the sentence. So, the answer to your question really is, it's always, "The people are..."

Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

--Robin Williams

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