

## Highlights

- Volunteer Day
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Islands of Adventure Theme Park Fun

This Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, the ELI is headed to Islands of Adventure Theme Park at the Universal Studios Orlando Resort. Islands of Adventure is a wonderful world of fantasy with many different thrilling rides and attractions.

When: Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the TRiP office in Reitz Union at 8:00am. We will return to Gainesville around 11pm.

What to Bring: Money for food, walking shoes, sunscreen, and a passion for roller coasters!

Want to go? Get your tickets on Thursday from the TRiP office. Van tickets are \$25.00. Islands of Adventure ticket are \$49.00 + tax.

**The TRiP office does have the correct tickets. You must purchase them on Thursday. If you have any questions, come and see Kristen or Noreen.**

\*\*\*\*\* If the van is not full, the trip will be CANCELLED!\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

### ELI T-Shirts

Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Sonja in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

### The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going **Tubing on the Ichetucknee River**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

### Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of May 30-June 5:

Students:

June 2: Lina Maria Camacho

June 4: Patsy Andujar

Staff:

May 31: Billy Welch

### Manners and Culture

*Q: Why doesn't the ELI use whiteboards instead of chalkboards? There are so many advantages—and they don't cause allergies.*

A: I agree. I hate chalk dust—it makes me sneeze, too.

Really, there are several very good reasons. The main one is that we probably aren't going to make any major changes to our facilities for a while. There has been a bit of uncertainty for a few years about whether or not the ELI will be able to keep its space in Norman Hall. One thing that we are changing in the (hopefully!) not-too-distant future is new carpeting. But overall, things like

whiteboards represent a major capital investment. Chalk is a lot less of an investment for now!

*Q: Can I say “hello” to everyone I meet? In my country, we don’t do this.*

A: We don’t do it in a lot of the US, but it is very common in the Southern US in particular. Gainesville is definitely in the Southern US! Though you probably will say “hi” or “hey” rather than “hello”—we rarely use “hello” except in formal situations or in answering the telephone.

*Q: When someone invites you to an American house what is the best way to be polite with the hosts?*

A: By showing up on time. Also, you may bring a small gift, such as chocolate, flowers, or (if you know your hosts drink) wine. This part is not required, however. It’s appreciated, but not expected.

Q: Can you tell me how to greet people in a group of different ages in the US?

A: “Hi.”

We don’t make age distinctions in English the way that some languages do.

*Q: Some of my classmates don’t use deodorant and the classroom smells strong sometimes. Is it okay if I tell them?*

A: No, but it’s okay if I do here. Folks, this is always something of a problem for us, given the multicultural nature of the ELI and the fact that deodorant use isn’t common in some countries, while it’s very common or even basically socially required in others. Here in the US, we do have people who actively protest and get quite angry when people indicate that they might benefit from the use of deodorant, but even a great majority of us do use it, too. If you come from a culture that doesn’t use it, please be aware that you probably smell pretty strong to your classmates and maybe even some of your teachers. If you are aware and you don’t want to do anything about it, that’s your right, of

course, but people are probably talking about it.

## Grammar

*Q: How do I answer tag questions? That is, if someone says, “It’s hot, isn’t it?” do I answer with a positive or a negative if it is hot?*

A: A common point of confusion! You agree with the original statement. So, in the case you gave, the answer would be “Yes.”

*Q: How can I use “say”, “tell”, and “speak”?*

A: Say something (to someone), tell someone (something), tell the truth, tell a story, speak to someone, and speak a language.

## Quote of the Week

When you cannot get a compliment any other way, pay yourself one.

--Mark Twain

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