

## Highlights

- Time Change
- Football
- Manners
- Grammar

# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Set Your Clocks

*Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend*

This Saturday night, October 31<sup>st</sup> into November 1<sup>st</sup>, don't forget to set your clocks one hour back, as we will be going off of Eastern Daylight Time and returning to Eastern Standard Time. Officially, the time change occurs at 2am on Sunday morning. If you forget, then you will be here a whole hour earlier than you have to on Monday!

In addition to the change itself, we would also like to make you aware of another issue—safety. For those of you who are out after 6pm every day, be aware that the sun will be setting at around 5:30; starting Monday, it will be dark in the early evening. This brings us a couple of issues:

- ❑ **Bicycling:** If you bike to school, do remember that it is the law in Gainesville (and a darn good safety idea, anyway) that you must have a working headlamp on the front of your bike and a red safety lamp on the rear of your bike after dark. If you don't, it's very difficult to see where you're going, and you will receive a traffic ticket (with a fine of \$95, folks!) if you are seen by the police.
- ❑ **Walking:** You should not walk alone in the dark. You should find a partner to walk with to the

bus stops and to your apartment complex.

Start planning now; it's best to be prepared for the time change!

## The Weekend Trip

This Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, we are having a **Football Party** and watching the Florida-Georgia football game!

The UF vs. the University of Georgia football game is a huge tradition in Gator football! Every year, these two rivals take on each other in neutral territory in Jacksonville to show which is the better team. Our party will be a chance for you to come together as friends to eat, watch the game, and cheer on the Gators! This year it will be a particularly "spirited" atmosphere since it's also Halloween. Feel free to wear a costume.

**Where:** Cabana Beach clubhouse.  
We will meet there at 3:00pm.

**When:** Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00pm to around 6:30pm.

**Cost:** Bring \$5-7 for pizza and sodas.

## Notes from the Office

- **Travel and I-20's**—Even though it's a bit early, there are several holidays coming up. Do remember that if you travel outside the country during this time, you will need to get your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office before you go, in order to ensure that you will be able to return to the US when the holiday is over!
- **Noise in the Hallways**—Folks, just a little reminder. We share the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Norman Hall with a lot of other offices and different people. We would like to remind you please to keep the noise levels down as much as you can. One suggestion is that you do your best to speak English, even between classes. A number of you really do speak a lot louder when you use your native language. It's good practice and it will save a few headaches!

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 30-November 5:

Students:  
November 1: Junghyun Kwon

November 3: Rawan Alkhalaf  
November 4: Mahmoud Khedher  
Agha

Staff:

October 30: Fiona Lama  
November 3: Farrah Frazier

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why don't Americans take their shoes off in the house?*

A: A perennial favorite from our Asian friends, this one! Here's an answer to the question that I published way back in Fall 2000:

This is a question that comes up every semester. And it is one that honestly seems to illustrate the point that there are simply going to be differences in cultural perception and personal habits among different groups of people. The answer is that it's not just Americans. It's pretty much a division of East and West. In the West, the foot itself is perceived, generally, as less than sanitary. As a matter of fact, going barefoot in many public places is actually sometimes a violation of sanitation regulations--this is particularly true where food is being sold or prepared. If we were to walk into the house of an acquaintance and remove our shoes upon walking in the door, it would be perceived as the act of a rude (if not perhaps even slightly crazy!) person. Among very close friends who are just plain comfortable in the house with no

shoes, it's okay, but you should remove yours only if your host does!

*Q: What do American people wear during the winter?*

A: Well, the answer to that one will vary considerably, as we have so many different climate areas here in the US. Here in Gainesville, it doesn't change much even up until January, usually, as our temperatures don't go down much below the low 60s even at night until then. From January until early March, you will find that most people will be wearing long pants, multiple layers, and jackets. Then, as spring begins, it goes back pretty much to what you are used to seeing on a daily basis now!

*Q: What do Americans do on the weekend?*

A: What do you do on the weekend? We'd pretty much get the same kind of variety if we asked a random group of Americans as we would if we asked a random group of ELI students. Some would say they sleep, some would say they party, some would say they travel, some would say they do household chores, some would say they study, etc. Most likely, you'd even get a combination of all of those answers. I personally, for example, always do my laundry and some light housework, and often go to Walt Disney World. I don't think you'd get the same answer if you asked any other one person here at the ELI!

## Grammar

*Q: How do I know when a verb needs a preposition?*

A: There are no rules or shortcut answers for this question. Each phrasal verb (verb/preposition combination) has its own use and meaning, just as each individual word does, too. You should use the same techniques and practice for phrasal verbs that you do for any other vocabulary. Take note of phrasal verbs that you encounter, check the context, look them up, listen to how and when others use them, and practice as much as you can.

*Q: A friend sees me working on my homework. Which question is correct, "Have you been doing your homework?" or "Have you done your homework?"*

A: It would depend on what your friend actually wants to know. If the meaning is along the lines of asking about your activity, then the first question would be correct. If the meaning is about whether or not you have actually finished the work, then the second question would be correct.

## Quote of the Week

When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way.  
--Dr. Wayne Dyer

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