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The ELI Weekly

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Football Party

Come out and cheer the Gators!

This Saturday, October 9th, we are having a **Football Party** and watching the Florida-LSU football game!

What: Come hang out with UF students and cheer on the Gators as they take on a big SEC rival, Louisiana State University!

During half time, we will have a trivia game with two 16-Gig Ipod Touches as prizes!!

Where: The clubhouse at Oxford Manor, 2777 S.W. Archer Rd. Gainesville, FL 32608 (<http://www.oxfordmanor.org>) See the sign-up sheet for information about transportation.

When: Saturday, October 9. Arrive at 7pm!

Cost: Free ☺ We will be grilling burgers and hot dogs, and there will be prizes.

Go Gators!!

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 3rd 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!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for the **UF Homecoming Parade and Gator Growl**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in the next *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 8-14:

Students:

October 8: Saeed AlGhamdi
October 12: Abdulaziz Alotaibi
October 13: Fahad Alshakarah
October 14: Abdullah Alghamdi
October 14: Daniel Mendez

Staff:

None this week!

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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