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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Paynes Prairie

Come out and take some pictures!

This Saturday, we will be going to Paynes Prairie. Paynes Prairie is a 21,000 acre preserve about 15 minutes south of UF. Come on a nature walk with us and see alligators, wild horse, bison and other wildlife. Bring your cameras because there will be a lot of great opportunities for photographs!

When: Saturday, October 1st. Meet at the Norman garage at 10:30am. We will return around 2:00pm.

Cost: The cost is \$2 cash per person. Bring some money for lunch in case we get something to eat afterwards.

What to Bring: A backpack with water, sunglasses, sunscreen, and your camera. Wear comfortable shoes!

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday, September 29th at 4:00pm.

The Next Trip

On Saturday, October 8th, we will be going to **Busch Gardens** for Howl-O-Scream. This is an evening trip. The vans will leave Gainesville around 6:00pm and return

around 1:30am. More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

If you would like to go, bring \$55 in cash, exact change, to Nate in room 318. This cost covers the \$20 transportation pass and the ticket which costs \$35. Please bring your Gator 1 ID card along with the \$55. Nate will be available between 10:00am and 1:30pm.

There are only 24 spots available and it is first-come, first-serve so come early! The deadline is Friday, September 30th. **You must pay cash, exact change only, and the money is nonrefundable.**

Immunizations & Insurance

All of our students are required to have certain immunizations and adequate health insurance in order to attend class. We do this because UF requires it and because we care about you and don't want you to infect each other with tuberculosis or get sick and not have insurance. Unfortunately, every semester there are some students who don't bring us their immunization records, don't have immunization records at all, or

forget to enroll or re-enroll in health insurance. If you received a green note from Emily, you are one of these students. Please carefully read the green notes, and if you don't understand, please see Emily in Norman 316 immediately. **If you have to miss class because of an issue with immunizations or insurance, it counts as an absence.**

Notes from the Office

Student Mailbox: Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. It's starting to pile up!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 30-6:

Students:
September 30: Mishal Binmal
October 2: Seunghyun Yoon
October 4: Sohaibo Tapsoba
October 4: Ammar Alseddigi
October 5: David Rabottini Garcia
October 6: Yasser Alwafi
October 6: Mohammed Abuong

Staff:
October 3: Melissa Margolin

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why doesn't UF have more parking lots?

A: This is not just a problem at UF—it's a difficult choice for many universities around the country. Some people suggest that we should put garages where there are now lots, but that isn't a good solution, either. The roads and the existing infrastructure can't sustain that many cars entering and discharging from a single location. This is one of the reasons that Gainesville has a much larger bus system than most cities this size in the US and why UF and Santa Fe fund a large portion of the bus system's operating budget. Which leads us to the next question...

Q: Why is there so little public transportation on the weekends in Gainesville?

A: Actually, buses running on the weekends in Gainesville at all is relatively new—less than 10 years. The fact of the matter is, not many

people actually use the buses on weekends, and when they do, they aren't moving in a common direction as they are during the week. So, there isn't a cost justification for running many routes and buses on weekends.

Q: Why do Americans eat a lot of hamburgers?

A: They're cheap, fast, and delicious (usually).

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between hear and listen?

A: You hear something whether you want to or not—the sound reaches your ear and enters your brain. You listen to something because you want to.

- I *heard* the baby cry while I was *listening* to music.

Q: Do I need a comma before a FANBOYS conjunction in all cases?

A: You need one in a compound sentence or in a series of 3 or more items, but not with only 2 items.

- I like to eat hamburgers, but my sister dislikes them.
- I like to eat hamburger, fries, and ice cream.
- I like to eat carrots and yogurt.

Q: Why don't Americans pronounce the words the way they are written?

A: English is a combination of French, German, Latin, Dutch, Arabic, Spanish, Japanese, etc. Because there are so many different languages with their own sound system and spelling system, the spelling in English got a little crazy. In addition, there was NO standardized spelling in English at all until well into the 19th Century. On top of that, the way words are pronounced today has changed, but we keep the old spelling. For all these reasons, learning how to pronounce words correctly is frustrating. Here are some crazy examples:

- too, shoe, flew, through, true
- toe, sew, flow, though

Quote of the Week

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

--George Burns

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