

## Highlights

- Howl-O-Scream
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 116, Issue 5  
October 1, 2011*

## HOWLO-SCREAM at Busch Gardens®

### Howl-O-Scream

*Have a scary time at Busch Gardens!*

This weekend, we will be going to **Busch Gardens** for Howl-O-Scream! Come ride roller coasters and experience Halloween by walking through the scary haunted houses! Get ready to be scared!!

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The vans will leave Gainesville around 6:00pm and return around 1:30am.

**COST:** \$55. The transportation pass is \$20 and the Howl-O-Scream ticket is \$35.

The tickets are sold out but you can get on the waiting list by talking to Nate between 10:00am and 1:30pm in 318 Norman. Students, if you have already paid but can't go anymore, please talk to Nate about selling your ticket to someone on the waiting list.

### The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for **Paintball!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

### Smoking & Trash

**Smoking:** Remember that there is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. This means you should not be smoking anywhere on campus, or on the private property surrounding Norman Hall. If you need to smoke, speak to your LAs about places where it might be acceptable. Please respect the campus rules and regulations, as well as city ordinances. Put your cigarette butts in a trash can or you can be given an expensive ticket for littering!

**Trash:** The UF campus has trash and recycling bins everywhere. Please use them to keep our campus beautiful.

### Reminders from the Office

**Immunizations & Insurance:** Remember that if you received a green note from Emily, you need to take care of it immediately. Please see Emily in Norman 316 if you don't understand the note. **Again, if you have to miss class because of an issue with immunizations or insurance, it counts as an absence.**

**Noise in the hallway:** Remember to be courteous of other classes that may be going on and of people working in offices. Keep your conversations low and remember to speak in English only.

**Student Mailbox:** Remember to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time.

### Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 7-13 plus the one I missed last week. My apologies!

Students:  
October 4: Mansour Alduhaynah  
October 7: German Perez Gonzalez  
October 11: Hyungjun Park  
October 12: Abdulaziz Alotaibi  
October 12: Adriana Rabottini Garcia

Staff:  
None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why is the eagle the national bird of the US?*

A: It was chosen mainly for its positive characteristics. The eagle has long life, majestic looks, and great strength. Also, at the time, it was believed that the bald eagle was native only to North America. There were dissenters, though. One of our most famous early statesmen, Benjamin Franklin, thought that the turkey should be our national bird.

*Q: Do I have to learn spoken colloquial expressions? They confuse me.*

A: It depends mostly on why you're learning the language. Sure, if you plan to sit in your room alone and do nothing but read textbooks, you can probably get away without learning the spoken language and the slang and colloquial expressions. And, this is certainly true if you don't plan to study here in the US or have much interaction with native speakers of English. But in everyday use, including in professors' lectures, in newspaper and magazine articles, and in most any social interaction you have with native speakers, slang and idiom and colloquial English will be necessary parts of your daily communication.

*Q: Why can't we talk about politics and religion in a public setting? I think it prevents forming sound public opinion.*

A: We can. There's a big difference, though, between a *public* setting and a *social* setting. This is a very diverse country with a huge number of religious and political beliefs—some very passionate. Culturally, we have an understanding that in social settings, especially more formal ones in which the people don't know each other well, that we don't tend to talk about things that might provoke loud disagreement and hurt feelings. This is not to say, however, that we never talk about these things at all. When people have less social distance and they know each other well, there may be some pretty spirited political discussion. And, in settings where there is a clear understanding that it's appropriate, such as at church, mosque, temple, or similar venues, there can be a great deal of discussion about religion.

For folks like ELI students, who are trying to feel their way through the culture from a fresh perspective, there is also the social convention of asking if it's okay. That is, saying something like, "Do you mind if I ask you about your opinion of..." When you do this, however, it is considered very rude to a) express strong disagreement with whatever the person answers, and b) to become visibly hurt or upset if they choose not to discuss it at all.

## Grammar

*Q: What's the difference between the present perfect and the present perfect progressive?*

A: Some verbs can mean the same thing in the present perfect and the present perfect progressive. These are verbs of habitual activities.

- I have worn glasses since 2001.
- I have been wearing glasses since 2001.

For other verbs, it depends on the context. Use the present perfect for something that happened at an unspecified time in the past. Use the present perfect progressive for something that is still happening. You can also use the present perfect progressive for actions that happened in the past but still have some connection to the present.

- I have seen the movie Dumbo a dozen times and I always cry.
- I have been watching this movie for the past 30 minutes.
- My eyes are puffy because I have been crying.

## Quote of the Week

I'm a firm believer in doing things that scare you.

– Catherine Bell

**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](mailto:StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu)  
Webpage: [www.eli.ufl.edu](http://www.eli.ufl.edu)