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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 116, Issue 6
October 14, 2011*



Paintball

Come out and have some fun!

This Saturday, October 15th we are going to play **Paintball!** Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, October 15th. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:30 pm. We will be playing from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. If it is raining on Saturday, check the Facebook page after 10:00 am to find out if the trip has been cancelled or postponed.

Cost: The cost is \$25 for a basic package. This will cover the rental fee for your gun and safety equipment, use of the field, and 200 paint bullets. Bring extra money if you want more paintballs.

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

WHAT TO WEAR: Paintball is not a dangerous game, but the paint bullets can sting. For this reason, **you should wear old, comfortable long sleeves and long pants that can get dirty.** Dark colored clothing is best so that you are more camouflaged. Also, because we will be in the woods, you should wear sneakers. You might get hot, so **BRING WATER!**

Obstructing Traffic

It has come to our attention that some of our students are obstructing traffic by playing in the street. This is extremely dangerous to everyone in the area. It is very important to respect traffic laws: do NOT obstruct traffic with cars, bicycles, or bodies. Not only is it risky, it can result in a heavy fine.

Notes from the Office

Travel and I-20s: Even though it's a bit early, there are several holidays coming up. 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!

Lost and Found: If you lose personal items in Norman Hall, be sure to check in the ELI Main Office. We keep a box that is usually full of things that people have left in classrooms and around the ELI. If you find something that was left behind, be sure to bring it to us. If you lose personal items in other buildings, check with the main office of the building; they might have saved it.

The Next Trip

There is no ELI trip scheduled next week, since we will be in our Midterm Week. Saturday, October 29th, we will be holding our **Midterm Picnic**. This will also be the welcome picnic for our new B-Term students, so be sure to come out, give them a warm welcome, and make some new friends!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 14-20:

Students:

October 14: Salwa Almasad
October 15: Saeed Binsabaan
October 16: Abdoul Rachid Kouanda
October 17: Johaysa Pereira Suarez
October 18: Adama Ouedraogo
October 19: Adel Alsanad
October 20: Amadou Diallo

Staff:

October 18: Nate Bloemke

Happy birthday!

Manners and Culture

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

A: This really depends on your host. If you visit someone for the first time, and they take their shoes off, then you can ask "Should I take my shoes off, too?" A lot of my American friends take their shoes off at home and when they come to my house too. If we were to walk into the house of an acquaintance and remove our shoes without asking first, it would be perceived as unusual. If your hosts don't take their shoes off, but you would like to, you can ask "Can I take my shoes off?" but this might be considered unusual as well. For people who don't take their shoes off, it is because in the West feet are generally perceived as dirty. Going barefoot in public places is a violation of sanitation regulations because of the possibility of transmitting diseases from feet to food or even from the floor to feet. So

always ask your host to make sure it's ok!

Q: Are there class distinctions in American society?

A: Sure. They're based mainly on socioeconomic status, though, and not by birth. Money does stratify us, but we also have a very, very large middle class.

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: The first question is correct because it asks if you are still in the process of doing the homework. The second question asks if you already finished it which is awkward if you're still working on it.

A: Have you been doing your homework?

B: Yes, I'm still working on it.

A: Have you done your homework?

B: No, I haven't finished it yet.

Quote of the Week

Love is trembling happiness.

Khalil Gibran

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