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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Midterms

Good luck on your exams!

There is no scheduled ELI trip this weekend since many classes will be holding Midterm Exams. Use the weekend to study. Good luck on your exams!

The Next Trips

Next weekend will be a busy one! On Saturday, October 29th, we will be holding our **Midterm & Fall B Welcome Picnic**. Then on Monday, October 31st, we will be hosting our **ELI Halloween Party**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Attendance Emails

To help you keep track of how many hours of classes you miss, you can now receive a weekly email informing you of your total hours of absences. To sign up for this, go to <http://www.eli.ufl.edu/email/inputEmailForm.htm>. In order to receive the emails you must have your UF Student ID number and a Gatorlink email address. The emails will only be sent to your Gatorlink email address. After you register, you will receive an email every Wednesday letting you

know how many total absences you have from the week before.

Notes from the Office

Class Attendance: Remember, your attendance is very, very important. We have been asked to remind you that ***every 3 tardies counts as 1 hour of absence, and you are limited in the number of hours you can miss.*** If you have any questions about your attendance, be sure to ask your teachers as soon as possible or sign up for the weekly emails.

Fake IDs: Not that we think that our students would do such a thing, but there are occasional rumors. Once in a while we like to remind you that certain things can be more serious than some people think they might be. Florida has strict laws regarding using a fake ID to purchase alcohol. The penalty is up to 5 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine...and a foreign student is subject to immediate deportation for a felony. It's a big, big risk!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 21-27:

Students:

October 23: Yousef Almuhairei
October 23: Mohammed Alzahrani
October 26: Mihae Kwon

Staff:

October 21: Scott Cutshall
October 22: Ariel Marin

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans speak so fast?

A: We don't. Relatively speaking, English isn't nearly as fast as some other languages. However, when you are learning the language, it seems a lot faster. And, of course, your teachers often must use "teacher talk", that is, slower language, to make sure that you understand.

Q: Are private universities better than public universities? How can I know which one is best in graduate studies?

A: It depends on what field you are studying. Many private universities have much larger endowments (reserve money—usually donated by alumni or local community figures) than many public universities, which receive a lot of their money from the taxes paid to a state. For example, Harvard University, our oldest university in the US, has by far the largest endowment, and it is often considered a leader in prestigious fields like medicine and law.

Public universities have the advantage of being lower in cost than most private universities, and they often rank very high in a number of fields. In the 2011 US News and World Report rankings (considered one of the better tools for ranking colleges), the University of Florida comes in at number 58 nationally, a very high ranking. You can go to <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/national-universities> to look at individual rankings.

Grammar

Q: I understand the use of “get” as meaning “obtain” or “receive”, but can you give me an example of when it means “become” or “change into”?

A: Sure.
“It’s getting late.”
“I’ve been sick, but I’m getting better.”
“The class gets more fluent every day.”

Q: When can I use “get” instead of “go”, as in, “I get to work,” vs. “I go to work”?

A: They have different meanings. “Get” is very restricted in that it means “arrive” while “go” has multiple meanings.

- I get to work at 9am.
Meaning: I arrive at work at 9am.
- I go to work at 9am.
Possibility 1: I leave my house at 9am.
Possibility 2: I start working at 9am.

Q: What’s the difference between the present perfect “I have visited Tampa” and modals in the past “I should have visited Tampa”?

A: The present perfect is used for something that happened in the past but has some connection to the present time. Modals in the past are used for events that could have possibly happened (but maybe didn’t).

- I have visited Tampa two times since I moved to the United States.
- My friends went to Tampa and said it was a lot of fun. I should have visited Tampa, too.

Quote of the Week

You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

--Irish Proverb

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