

Highlights

- Paintball
- Notes from the Office
- UF Services
- Birthdays
- Manners
- Grammar

The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 119, Issue 1
September 11, 2012



Paintball

Have fun but be safe!

Have you always wanted to shoot paintballs at your friends? Saturday, September 15th is your opportunity to do just that! The ELI will be going to First Strike Paintball in Newberry, Florida.

When: Saturday, September 15th from 1pm to 4pm.

Where: First Strike Paintball in Newberry, Florida. We will meet at Norman Garage at 12pm and return around 4:30pm.

Cost: The cost per student is \$17 (cash or credit) for the basic package (200 paintballs) and \$30 for the upgraded package (500 paintballs). 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.

What to Bring: Please wear dark clothes, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and closed-toed shoes that are comfortable for running.

IMPORTANT: Students under 18 should see Nate to pick up a waiver which their parents will need to sign before the trip. Please sign up on the Activities Board by Thursday, September 13th.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our first Volunteer Day of the semester. Details will

be presented in the Volunteer Seminar, and also will be on the Activities Board and in the next *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Attendance: Our attendance policy has been revised. Please note that if a student goes has absences greater than 35% of their total hours, a student's I20 will be terminated for not maintaining his/her student status. This means that the student will have to leave the United States immediately. Please remember that non-probationary students who miss more than 15% of classes will not get a certificate of completion. Students who miss more than 25% of their hours will not be allowed to return.

Withdrawing from the ELI or one course
Students who withdraw from a course or the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide.

Turns: When the office is crowded, please try to wait your turn. If everyone is patient and polite, things move in a swifter and more orderly manner. Everyone **will** be served eventually.

Fire Drills/Alarms: Whenever you hear a fire alarm, whether in Norman Hall or in any other building, you need to leave the building quickly and quietly. Getting out in an orderly

and expedient fashion may well save your life. Also, please note that the fire alarms must never, ever be pulled by anyone other than building management unless there is an actual emergency. Falsely pulling a fire alarm is against the law.

Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week.

Wednesday: *Coffee Talk* at Orange & Brew in the Reitz Union, 7-10pm. Bring money for drinks.

Thursday: *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 7-10pm. Free!

Friday: *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 7-10pm. Free!

Gator Nights at the Reitz, 6-9pm. Bring your UFID.

UF Services

Recreational Facilities: As ELI students, you are able to use the pools, Lake Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts by showing your Gator 1 card. On the other hand, ELI students do **not** have access to the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, Southwest Recreation Center and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center because these facilities are funded by UF degree-seeking student activity fees. If you want to use these facilities, you'll need to pay a membership fee.

Libraries: UF has great libraries and you have full access to them, if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

Parking: Very important! If you drive to the ELI, you need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from Judith in 315 Norman to purchase a Green/Commuter Lot decal.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 10 to September 16:

Students:

September 11: Awwad Aldera

September 11: Jaesub Shin

September 15: Yahya Alammari

September 15: YoungSuk Choi

September 15: Isaudry Muñoz Velasquez

September 16: Elbaluz Armada

Staff:

None this week

Don't forget to say happy birthday to your classmates!

Manners and Culture

Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.

Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors: 15 to 20% of the total bill

Hotels: Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total--sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

Parking: Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

Pizza Delivery: \$2 per pizza

Restaurants: 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants in Florida have a minimum wage of only \$4.65 an hour, which is much less than the regular minimum wage of \$7.67.

Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 18% gratuity in the bill for large groups. If you're splitting the bill and the

restaurant didn't add the gratuity, make sure you calculate it and add it.

Taxis: \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Some places, like grocery stores, have people that help you outside with your purchases. You may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer.

Grammar

Q: Sometimes I ask my teacher a question but she doesn't understand me. What can I do?

A: The most important thing is to make sure that you ask a complete question. If you say, "Teacher, comfortable", your teacher doesn't know if you want the spelling, the meaning, or if you're trying to tell her that you're comfortable. If she or he still doesn't understand, try asking it a different way. Here are examples of what I mean:

- How do you spell *comfortable*?
- What does *comfortable* mean?
- How do you pronounce *comfortable*?
- When can I use *comfortable*?
- Are you comfortable?

Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

Robin Williams

UF 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

Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu