

## Highlights

- Midterms
- Notes from the Office
- Manners
- Studying Strategies
- Birthdays
- Grammar

# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 119, Issue 5  
October 8, 2012



## 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

On Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our **Midterm & Fall B Welcome Picnic**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Studying Strategies

Since your midterm exams are coming, here are some tips to help you do well on the exams but more importantly, to improve your English overall.

- Do the activities in the book that your instructor assigned and didn't assign.
- Find activities online. For example, if you google "preposition practice", you'll get lots of results.
- Practice whatever you're studying, but do it out loud. Practice using pronouns in sentences, reading the newspaper and finding them there, listening for them when people talk, and writing texts to friends using them.

- Study with a partner. Do all the things specified above with a friend so you can correct each other's mistakes and so you can also encourage each other.
- Get plenty of sleep and eat well!

Remember that language is about using it, not just the grade you get on the exam.

## Notes from the Office

### Immunizations & Insurance:

You will soon be barred from class until you take care of this. If you don't understand the green note, talk to Lillian.

**Class Attendance:** Remember, your attendance is very, very important. We want 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.

**Driver License:** Please remember that it's illegal to drive without a license and without car insurance. If you are planning to get your driver license, make an appointment before you go, but don't make it during your class times. You should expect a long wait even if you have an appointment. You should study

the book beforehand so that you can pass the exam the first time. If you miss class because you're getting your driver license or because you have to pay a ticket for not having one, **this counts towards your absences!**

**Fake IDs:** Not that we think that our students would do such a thing, but there are occasional rumors. 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 8 to October 14:

Students:

October 10: Luis Garcia Portela

October 13: Cristina Nunez Godoy

Staff:

October 11: Matt Goode

October 13: Genevieve Casagrande

October 14: Rebecca Gabay

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", or slower language, to make sure that you understand. If you compare "teacher talk" to people on the bus, it seems like the bus riders speak a lot faster.

*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 54 nationally, a very high ranking. You can go to the link below to look at individual rankings of universities across the US:

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/national-universities>

## 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**

**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)