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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 122, Issue 3
September 23, 2013



Blue Spring State Park

Come out and swim in the spring!

Blue Spring State Park is 2,600 acres about 45 minutes from Gainesville. In the winter, you can see manatees but unfortunately, you can't swim with them. This weekend, since the manatees aren't there yet we will go swimming! We'll also play volleyball and board games.

When: Saturday, September 28th. Meet at the Norman Garage at 12pm. We will return to Gainesville around 5:00pm.

Cost: The cost is \$8 cash per person. Bring some money for lunch in case we get something to eat afterwards.

What to Bring: Your swimming suit, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a packed lunch (or money for food).

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday, September 26th at 4:00pm.

The Next Trip

On Saturday, September 29th, we will be attending the **UF-Arkansas football game**. Tickets for the game are sold out! More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Immunizations

All of our students are required to have certain immunizations in order to attend class. We do this because UF requires it and because we care about you and don't want you to infect each other with tuberculosis or get sick and not have insurance. Unfortunately, every semester there are some students who don't bring us their immunization records or don't have immunization records at all. If you received a green note from Emily, you are one of these students. Please carefully read the green notes, and if you don't understand, please see Emily in Norman 316 immediately. **If you have to miss class because of an issue with immunizations, it counts as an absence.**

Notes from the Office

Go to class: There are no excused absences for any reason. You are allowed to miss 15% of classes but, unless you told your teacher about a religious holiday, any classes that you do miss will negatively affect your grade in class and more importantly, your ability to improve your English.

Speak English: You're here to learn English and the best way to learn is by using it all the time. This includes in the hallways, in the

classroom before class starts, and while eating lunch.

Wait Your Turn: Please be polite in the office and wait until the office staff have finished helping the person or people ahead of you.

Smoking: There is no smoking ANYWHERE on the UF campus. If you need to smoke, speak to your LAs about places where it might be acceptable. Please put your cigarette butts in a trash can or you can be given an expensive ticket for littering!

ELI Places of Origin

The following is a list of the many places of origin of our students:

Argentina	Kuwait
Bangladesh	Libya
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Niger
Burkina Faso	Panama
Chile	Peru
China	Qatar
Colombia	Russia
Costa Rica	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Spain
France	Taiwan
Honduras	United Arab
Indonesia	Emirates
Iran	United States
Iraq	Uruguay

Manners and Culture

Q: Why doesn't UF have more parking lots?

A: This is not just a problem at UF—it's a difficult choice for many universities around the country. Some people suggest that we should put garages where there are now lots, but that isn't a good solution, either. The roads and the existing infrastructure can't sustain that many cars entering and exiting from a single location. This is one of the reasons that Gainesville has a much larger bus system than most cities this size in the US and why UF and Santa Fe fund a large portion of the bus system's operating budget. Which leads us to the next question...

Q: Why is there so little public transportation on the weekends in Gainesville?

A: The fact of the matter is, not many people actually use the buses on the weekends, and when they do, they aren't moving in a common direction as they are during the week. As a result, RTS can't justify having many routes and buses on weekends.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between hear and listen?

A: You hear something whether you want to or not—the sound reaches your ear and enters your brain. You listen to something because you want to.

- I heard the baby cry while I was listening to music.
- I can hear my neighbor upstairs even with the TV on.

Q: What's the difference between speak and talk? Can I say "I talk English"?

There are two main differences. The first is the formality. *Speak* is more academic than *talk*. Look at the two examples below. Which one would you use with your friend and which one would you use with you professor?

- Could I speak with you?
- Let's talk.

The other difference is that *talk* can't have a direct object but *speak* can. This means your sentence is incorrect. They can both take indirect objects using *with*.

Correct: I speak English.

Incorrect: I talk English.

Correct: I spoke with my professor.

Correct: I talked with my professor.

Q: I think my English is not improving. Is there a secret to get better fast?

The number one thing is to speak English. This is why your teachers make you speak, read, write, and listen to English in every single class. This is why we scold you when you speak something other than English. We know that using it is the best way to improve. Speak it, use new vocabulary and grammar, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and try again. Make a pact with your friends to only speak English. Find friends of other nationalities. Do whatever you need to do to use only English but basically speak, read, write, and live English all the time.

Quote of the Week

A great way to learn about your country is to leave it.

Henry Rollins