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The ELI Weekly

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Midterm Picnic!

Join us and make new friends!

This Saturday will be a fun day in the sun to welcome the new ELI students. All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited to the Midterm/Welcome picnic at Yulee Pit. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

When: Saturday, October 25th at 12pm

Where: In front of Norman Hall by the tunnel on 13th Street

What to Bring: This activity is free. Wear tennis shoes and sun-block. We will provide the food, so come hungry!!

IMPORTANT: Fall C students need to sign up on the Activities Board.

Everyone is welcome!

The Next Trip

On Saturday, November 1st, we will have the second **Volunteer Day** of the semester! Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Student Mail: Please remember to check from time to time to see if you have any mail from home or from other sources. The student mailbox is a tray located on the

shelf immediately below and on the right-hand side of the teachers' mailboxes just inside the door in the ELI Main Office.

Go to class!
Speak English!
Participate in activities!

Crossing the Road

We've seen a few ELI students cross the roads at dangerous times. Please be very careful when crossing the road. According to the University Police Department, about 3 crashes a week involve a pedestrian. Always cross at the crosswalk and only when the pedestrian signal is white. Make sure to look both ways before you cross!!

Midterm Course Evaluations

This is your chance to give your feedback to your teachers on how much you are enjoying your classes or to offer any suggestions on activities or skills you would like to work on. Please take the time to fill out these evaluations with thorough comments. Your comments are very helpful!! If it is better for you, you can email your comments to studyenglish@eli.ufl.edu. If you do so, please be sure to put your class (skill and level) in the subject line.

Midterm Student Reports

Over the next couple of weeks, your teachers will be giving you feedback on how you are doing in the class. Please remember that their suggestions are a guide to help you progress through the term and achieve the student learning outcomes for your classes. Please make sure you save your midterm forms from your teacher in case you have any questions or in case you need any letters of progress from Patti.

Manners and Culture

Q: Why is the US a multicultural nation?

A: We've always been a nation of immigrants and therefore many cultures. From the start of American history, from the standpoint of European colonization, the American story is one of many different people coming here for many different reasons, including freedom from religious persecution, economic opportunity, and the sheer adventure of starting something new.

Q: How do people in the US visit other states other than by plane or car?

A: Well, those are the main ones. There is also the Greyhound Bus system, which can be the least expensive option (though it can also take the longest), and many of our

larger cities are also linked by Amtrak train, particularly in the Northeastern US.

Q: Why do some Americans not like to say their age?

A: It's on a list of taboo topics, which also involve money and religion. We also dislike discussing weight or even things like our grades in school.

Grammar

Q: Do I need a comma before a FANBOYS conjunction in all cases?

A: You need one in a compound sentence with a FANBOYS conjunction or in a series of 3 or more items, but not with only 2 items.

- I like to eat hamburgers, but my sister dislikes them.
- I eat a lot of hamburgers, yet I'm skinny.
- I like to eat hamburger, fries, and ice cream.
- I like to eat carrots and yogurt.

Q: What's the difference between "who" and "whom"?

A: Technically, "who" is a subject pronoun and "whom" is an object pronoun. However, nowadays most speakers do not use "whom" at all, especially in spoken English. The only time it's absolutely required in spoken English is if you put a preposition first. And most people don't even do that!

- Who is speaking?
- Whom are you speaking with?
- To whom are you speaking?

Q: How do I improve my reading?

A: This is a very common question. The best way to improve something is by doing that thing. Therefore, the best way to improve your reading is by reading, a lot. It also improves your grammar, your spelling, your vocabulary, and your writing. The Friends of the Library Book Sale is a great place to get used books. It has thousands of books! It's October 25th to October 29th close to downtown.

<http://www.folacl.org/bksl.html>

Quote of the Week

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

Mark Twain



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