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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 117, Issue 7
February 27, 2012*



Spring Break

Relax! Enjoy!

This coming weekend, Saturday, February 25th, there is no scheduled ELI trip. Just in case you aren't already aware of it, our Spring Break is next week! If you do not yet have any plans for Spring Break, we have some suggestions for you.

If you are staying in Gainesville, there are lots of things to do! If you like nature, check out the Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. And if you like bicycling, there is the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail—15 miles of paved cycling trail that winds through Paynes Prairie and beyond. Also, you can try the Depot Avenue/Waldo Road trail system. Also, Paynes Prairie itself has some really nice walking paths worth checking out. You'll see some gators and maybe some wild horses and bison, too! If you like museums, there are the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History, both located on the southwest side of campus. Each of these provides an afternoon of cultural enjoyment.

Check out some of the web links below for some information about traveling or things to do here in Florida.

www.visitgainesville.com
www.springbreaktravel.com
www.daytonabeach.com
www.visitflorida.com

Within an easy day's drive from Gainesville, you will find Atlanta in one direction and Miami in the other, with Savannah,

Jacksonville, Cedar Key, Orlando, Tampa/St. Petersburg, and many other interesting places in between. Here are some good Internet resources to help you locate last-minute hotel and flight reservations.

www.travelocity.com
www.expedia.com
www.orbitz.com

If you really want good bargains and are feeling adventurous, then you can try out Priceline bidding at www.priceline.com or blind purchasing on Hotwire at www.hotwire.com. If you're planning on renting a car, then be sure to call all of the companies in town to check on the available rates.

Please remember that missing any classes on the Friday before Spring Break or the Monday after do count toward total absences. Also, remember to get your I-20s signed if you plan on leaving the country.

The Next Trip

Our next weekend activity will be our **Midterm Picnic**, which is also our **B-Term Welcome Picnic**, on Saturday, March 11th.

Join us in welcoming the new Spring B students to the ELI family! All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited. It will be a fun day in the sun to have a picnic

at Yulee Pit. There will be sports, games and great conversation!

When: Saturday, March 11 at 11:30

Where: Broward Beach (Behind Broward and Yulee Halls, across 13th Street from the ELI).

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

IMPORTANT: Spring C students need to sign up on the sign up sheet.

Everyone is Welcome!

Notes from the Office

ELI Video Competition: Remember to work on your videos over the break! The deadline is Friday, April 20th in the CIP Office (Rm 318)

Daylight Savings: Remember to set your clocks forward an hour on March 11th. If you forget, you'll be an hour late to class on Monday!

GRE Preparation

The ELI will be offering a GRE Preparation course starting Spring B. This course focuses on the Verbal Reasoning and Analytical Writing sections of the

Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Students will be familiarized with the format and will do exercises and take regular practice exams to improve test-taking strategies.

The class is \$575 and will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:10 to 7:30, and will start on March 13. Spring C students who are interested and place into levels 50 or 60 in Reading/Writing should come to the main office and sign up **by March 2**. The deadline to drop this class will be Tuesday, March 6, at 4:00 pm. Any student who does not drop the class by the deadline will still be responsible for his/her fees.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 27 to March 6:

Students:

February 27: Ali Asiri
March 1: Saud Alharbi
March 1: Shahir Alruayni
March 2: Yousef Alenezi
March 3: Lan Luan
March 4: Oswaldo Guarenas Manzano
March 5: Keun Woo You
March 11: Abdulmajeed Alomair
March 11: Pablo Arráiz

Staff:

February 27: Seth Dagen
March 2: Haydee Britton
March 6: Debbie Kellermann

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the polite action when you first meet people?

A: Look them in the eyes and say, "It's nice to meet you." Older people will also shake hands but this isn't as common among younger Americans, especially in informal settings.

Q: What are the best words to welcome someone into your home?

A: "Helllloooooo!" Or you could just say "Welcome." If it's cold out, you can also say "Can I take your coat?"

Q: If I look at an American for more than 5 seconds, why do they say, "Hi, how you doing?"? I don't know them so maybe it's normal.

A: There might be two reasons for this: They are being polite and really saying hello. Or maybe because you are staring at them, they are being impolite and making you aware that you are staring at them. Try not to stare at people.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "most" and "almost"?

A: "Almost" is an adverb and "most" is an adjective. You cannot use "Almost" in front of a noun.

- Correct: All students speak English
- Correct: Most students ride the bus.
- Correct: Almost all students take grammar class.
- Incorrect: Almost students take grammar class.

Q: When do I use "little" and "few:"?

A: As opposed to "a little" for noncount nouns and "a few" for count nouns, "little" and "few" emphasize that there is almost none or that there is much less of something than would normally be expected.

- I have a little money so I can go out but I can't do much.
- I have little money so I can't go out.

Q: What's the difference between "lots of" and "a lot of"?

A: Very little, actually. "Lots of" is a tiny bit less formal than "a lot of", but it's a very minor distinction. Both are preferable in spoken English to "much" or "many" in a positive statement.

Quote of the Week

Too much work, too much vacation, too much of any one thing is unsound.

Walter Annenberg

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