

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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On Saturday, April 7th we will be going to Silver Springs, which is south of Gainesville. We will go on the famous lighthouse ride and river cruises, watch water and animal shows, walk on wilderness trails, ride a glass bottom boat, see alligators and other wild animals, and go shopping! You can even see a cheerleading competition!

When: Saturday, April 7th. We will be meeting at Norman Garage at 9:30am and we will be back around 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$32 for admission. You must buy tickets at the gate on Saturday. Bring extra money for food and shopping.

What to bring: Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes plus sunscreen. Bring spending money, bottled water, and your camera!

This is a carpool trip so be sure to sign up by **Thursday** at 4pm on the Activities Board so we know how many cars we need.

The Next Trip

Saturday, April 14th we will not have a weekend activity, so you can study for finals. The last weekend of the semester,

Saturday, April 21st, we will be holding our **End of Semester Barbecue at Ginnie Springs**. Details about the activity will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Spring B Photo

The ELI Class picture for Spring B 2012 will be taken in front of **Tigert Hall** on SW 13th Street on Tuesday, April 10th, at 1:55pm. Classes will walk over together at the end of the first Listening/Speaking hour at 1:40pm. Please gauge your time to arrive by 1:50. If it is raining on Tuesday, we will hold the picture on Wednesday at the same time.

For any and all students not taking Listening/Speaking classes, as well as all other teachers, LAs, and any other ELI personnel who want to participate, we very much would like to encourage you to come and join us for the picture.

Daryl out

Daryl will be on vacation for the week of April 2nd. He will return to the office on Monday, April 9th. If you have an immigration emergency, please see Patti or Megan in the ELI Main office (Norman 315). If it's not an emergency,

please make an appointment to see Daryl when he returns.

University Admissions Workshop

Next week, the ELI will be having a workshop to help students learn about the undergraduate and graduate school admissions process for universities and colleges in the US. Representatives from the University of Florida Graduate School and Santa Fe College will be available to help you learn about opportunities in their programs. Please sign up for the event on the ELI Announcement Bulletin Board, across the hall from the Activities Board. Details on the location and time will be on the Board later this week as well as next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

Travel and I-20s: Don't forget, if you are planning to leave the country during the break between semesters and then return to the US, you must have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office (Room 315) in order to be allowed back into the country!

Immunizations & Insurance:

Remember to take care of your insurance and immunization as soon as possible. You will not be allowed to attend class until you do.

Student Voices. Don't forget that your *Student Voices* submissions are due by Friday, April 6th. Submissions can include any student work that you might like to see in print. You can submit your entries for the *Voices* to Steve at sflocks@ufl.edu.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of April 2 to April 8:

Students:

April 2: Mesfer Alharthy
April 3: Hao Zhang
April 3: Badr Shumsddin
April 5: Abdulrahman Alhelal
April 6: Mubarak Aldosari
April 6: Shoichiro Toke
April 8: Jasser Alharbi

Staff:

April 3: Stephen Sawicki
April 5: Jake Wolinsky

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why is not illegal to buy a gun in the US?

A: When the country was first founded, the writers of the Constitution included the right to carry a gun as one of the rights that Americans should have.

Q: What do Americans do after retirement?

A: Lots of different things. Some people travel, some play a lot of golf, some rest, and some go to live at Disney World. With the current economy, however, many retirees have had to get part-time or even full-time jobs.

Grammar

Q: Why are there so many silent letters in English words?

A: English is a combination of many different language influences. One of the main languages that influenced English vocabulary and spelling over the centuries was French. French arguably has more silent letters than most Western languages (they kept a lot of the Latin letters that they stopped pronouncing). A lot of the words that we imported, we didn't make many changes to; also, we adopted quite a few spelling patterns from the French language. English spelling wasn't actually

standardized until the middle of the 19th Century!

Q: Why do American people have a lot of mistakes when they write?

A: The answer above is one of the main reasons why some people writing in English have so many mistakes, Americans and non-native speakers alike. Because of the combination of different languages, words aren't written the way they sound.

Q: What's the difference between until and 'til?

A: It's the same word, just shortened. We use the short form usually in conversation. We use the full word in formal writing or formal speech. Interestingly, there is also a newer written form of 'til that is becoming more acceptable: *till*.

Conversational: I have to stay 'til 4pm.

Academic: I have to stay until 4pm.

Quote of the Week

This curious world we inhabit is more wonderful than convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used.

Henry David Thoreau

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

Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu