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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Volunteer Weekend

*Help others while helping yourself!*

We are holding our first **Volunteer Weekend** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment.

**Cost:** Free! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

*Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>*

**Bread of the Mighty:** We will help create care packages and store food for the needy of Gainesville. Meet at Norman Hall at 12:45pm.

*Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>*

**When:** See below for meeting times.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Help underprivileged families by building a house with other volunteers. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am.

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Air Potato Roundup:**

Learn about air potatoes, work together to collect them, and enjoy food and music! Meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am.

**Little Orange Creek:** Learn about Hawthorne's history while cleaning up an old cemetery. Meet at Norman Garage at 9:00am.

**Guardian Angels:** Learn how to train service dogs so they can help people. Meet at Norman Garage at 9:00am.

**Project Downtown Gainesville:** Join the Islamic Center and help feed the homeless in the downtown Bo' Diddley Community plaza. Meet at Norman Garage at 12:30pm.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> but don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. Arrive **ON TIME** at Norman Garage! If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chris in the CIP Office, Room 318.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week:

**Wednesday:** *Coffee Talk* at Starbucks on Archer Road, 7-10pm.

**Thursday:** *Volleyball* at Lexington Crossing, 7-10pm. Free!

**Friday:** *Gator Nights* at the Reitz, 6-9pm. Bring your UFID.

## Notes from the Office

**Libraries:** UF has great libraries and you have full access to them, if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, and get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

**Parking:** Very important! If you drive to the ELI, you need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from Olga in 315 Norman to purchase a Park and Ride decal.

**Withdrawing from the ELI or one course:** Students who withdraw from a course or from the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide.

**Feeling Sick?** If you get sick, you should send your teachers an email from home or talk to them when you get back. If you are going to be out for 3 or more days, please call the office and let us know.

**Student Mailbox:** Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you will not need to ask in the office.

## ELI Places of Origin

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

Angola	Kazakhstan
Argentina	Korea
Bolivia	Kuwait
Brazil	Mexico
Burkina Faso	Mozambique
Chile	Niger
China	Peru
Colombia	Qatar
Costa Rica	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Spain
Greece	Taiwan
Indonesia	Turkey
Iran	United States
Iraq	Uruguay
Japan	Venezuela

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why are the teachers really strict with punctuality?*

A: First of all, the official ELI policy requires that the teachers be strict. In the classroom, it's hard to start class if all the students aren't there and we want to make sure we're using the time effectively. Also, being late and making people wait is considered very rude in American culture.

*Q: Every UF classroom has a sign that says "Please no eating or drinking in classrooms". Does that include water?*

A: You are allowed to have water bottles with a cap in the classroom.

*Q: Why are teachers so strict with the use of cellphones in class, even if they were used as a dictionary?*

A: We are strict because we want you to focus on learning English. Studies show that students don't learn if they're not focused. Plus, let's be honest; we know you're not always checking the dictionary but rather Facebook or a text message.

## Grammar

*Q: What is the most common exclamation for Americans in each emotion? When do they say it?*

*For example:*

*Surprise -> Really?*

*Shock -> Oh, my God!*

*Amazement -> Wow!*

*Anger -> Sh\_\_! (You know)*

A: Your question is difficult to answer completely, mainly because there are so many variations, even regionally (and according to

audience), as to how we express strong emotion.

Those are all good, really, though that last one by itself is more commonly used for sudden pain or clumsiness, such as situations when you hit yourself on the finger with a hammer or you drop your cup of juice all over the white carpet—and that one is very dependent on your audience. It's not something that most of us would say in front of our grandmothers, for example. Also, the use of "God", as in your shock example, is considered to be possibly offensive to some people—be careful about using that one, too!

This is a good time to mention that you might want to ask your Language Assistants in your Listening/Speaking classes about the Curse Words Activity, as well as about other idioms that we use when we want to express strong emotions!

## Quote of the Week

If you can, help others; if you cannot do that, at least do not harm them.

**Dalai Lama**



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