

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

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the English Language Institute
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Come experience the Middle Ages and join the ELI at the 29th annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire on Saturday, January 24th! There will be medieval shows, rides, games, and other fun activities! You can even ride a camel or an elephant!

Where: Meet at 9:30am at Norman Garage. We will be returning from the Faire around 2:00pm. Remember to sign up on the activities board!

When: January 24th, 9:30am to 3:00pm

Cost: The admission cost is \$17 or \$7 for anyone under 18. Bring an ID that shows your birthday. Make sure to bring extra cash for food and shopping.

Have a great day, everyone!

The Next Trip

Next Saturday, January 31st, will be our first **Volunteer Weekend**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

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 223 Matherly 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.

Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week:

Tuesday: *Lollicup* on 34th Street, 7-10pm
Soccer on Norman Field, 7-10pm

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

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

Friday: *Gator Nights* at the Reitz Union, 7-10pm. We'll meet on the Ground Floor and watch *Interstellar* together.

Office Etiquette

The ELI Main office is very busy this time of year. Here are some tips to get the best service possible in the office:

- Please arrive, at the latest, 2 minutes early for your appointment. If you are late, you will not be helped, because the person after you will be helped. Remember, it is rude to be late, especially to a meeting *you* requested. Also, have your class schedule in mind when making appointments.
- Please wait in line. You will be helped, even if it takes a little while.
- Please respect everyone. This means being courteous and being on time.

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's the difference between "schools" and "school's"? What does the apostrophe mean?

A: Apostrophes are used for two things: to show possession and to replace missing letters or numbers. You should not use the apostrophe for plurals. "Schools" means more

than one school. "School's" means something belongs to the school. Look at the sentences below.

- The schools I attended were all good.
- The school's mascot is the gator.
- The school opened in the '90s.
- Incorrect: The school's in Alachua County got more funding this year.

Q: What are the correct uses for semicolon?

A: Semicolons are used to connect two related independent clauses in the same place where a period could go. You should not use it to separate an independent and dependent clause. Here are some examples to show what I mean.

- I usually wear a coat in January; I've only worn a coat once this year.
- I thought it would be very cold this winter; however, it hasn't been cold.
- Incorrect: If the weather gets cold; I will have to wear a coat.

Words of the Week

Each week, there will be one or two new words here. The words in this section come from TOEFL, AWL, and GRE lists of the most common academic vocabulary. To improve your vocabulary, try to use the words in your writing and your speaking. The words are also used in this *Weekly*. Can you find them?

focus (noun) – a main point of attention

focus (verb) – to pay attention to something

policy (noun) – a plan, procedure, or course of action

Quote of the Week

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

Benjamin Lee Whorf



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