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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## ELI Talent Show

*Sign up and show off your talent!*

As you probably already know,

the ELI is going to have its third annual Talent Show. The talent show is open to ELI students, faculty, staff, and LAs. Acts can include, but are not be limited to:

- o Singing
- o Skits
- o Comedy Routines
- o Cultural Presentations
- o Dancing
- o Juggling

**When:** March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 to 9:30pm

**Where:** University Auditorium

**Requirements:** Every act needs a sponsor. A sponsor can be an LA, teacher, or staff member. The sponsor doesn't have to be your teacher. Once the act has a sponsor, he or she can sign up on the Activities Board. The last day to sign up is Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

The act must be appropriate and not offensive. Each act should be less than 4 minutes. **Group acts are needed!**

All acts **must** attend both dress rehearsals (March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm).

**Note:** If we don't get enough acts, then we will have to cancel the show so find a sponsor and sign up!

If you are an artist and would like to display your work at the Show, sign up on the artist list.

## Signing up for Activities

Students, if you sign up for an activity, please go. If you can't go, let the CIP office know so that another student that wants to go can go.

## The Next Trip

This weekend, you'll be studying for your midterm exams, so we won't have a weekend activity. Next weekend, on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will not have a weekend activity since it is the beginning of Spring Break. The following weekend, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Midterm Picnic to welcome the Spring B students. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Emergencies

Please remember that the ELI emergency cell phone (352-672-0144) is for medical and legal emergencies only; for example, if you are in the hospital or jail. Please do not call the emergency cell phone for non-emergencies, such as questions about immunizations or insurance. For non-emergencies, you can call the ELI main office at 352-392-2070, or email Emily at [ebbourn@ufl.edu](mailto:ebbourn@ufl.edu).

## Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating Shaye Olmstead. She is now our official receptionist!

## 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](mailto: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.

## Notes from the Office

**Absences:** Remember that your teachers must count your absences, regardless of the reason. If you are going to be absent, even if for a national holiday in your country, talk to your teachers early so you can arrange to make up any missed work. If you already have a lot of absences, you should **not** miss class.

**Immunizations & Insurance:** Remember that you will not be allowed to attend class until you take care of your immunizations. A day missed because of immunizations is still a day missed.

**Sickness:** Remember to sneeze and cough into your elbow. If you sneeze into your hand and then shake hands with your classmates or teacher, you could spread your sickness to them.

**Travel and I-20s:** If you plan to travel outside the country during Spring Break, you will need to get your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office before you go, in order to ensure that you will be able to return to the US when the break is over!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: What is Presidents' Day?*

A: It's a combined holiday, actually. We used to have holidays for George Washington's birthday and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. These two are generally considered to be our greatest presidents. Both birthdays are in February, so the federal government decided that it was a good idea to make the Monday between them into a holiday to make a long weekend. However, UF and ELI students still have/ had class on Monday!

*Q: What should you do if someone bothers you inside the class?*

A: Take the first available private opportunity to tell the teacher about it.

## Grammar

*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.

*Q: Why is while followed by driving in the sentence below?*

Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

A: It's a reduced adverb clause. *While* usually uses a progressive (Verb-ing) in a generalization, so it's reduced from "While one is driving". You may have also seen the following:

**Reduced:** Fasten seat belt while seated.

**Long version:** Drivers must fasten their seat belt while they are seated (sitting).

## Word of the Week

Look for the word in this *Weekly!*

*emergency* (\_\_\_\_) - a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action

Collocates: medical, dire, life-threatening, room, service, care, deal, prepare, handle

## Quote of the Week

"People are their most beautiful when they are laughing, crying, dancing, playing, telling the truth, and being chased in a fun way."

Amy Poehler, *Yes Please*



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