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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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Come play laser tag on a team of your ELI friends at M2Battlesports in Newberry.

**When:** Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Norman Garage at 12pm.

**Cost:** The cost of Laser tag will be \$18 cash or credit card.

**What to Wear:** You should wear clothes that can get dirty with long sleeves, long pants, and closed toed shoes. Dark colored clothing is best so that you are more camouflaged. Also, you should wear tennis shoes since we will be in the woods.

**Note:** This is a carpool trip, so you must sign up on the Activities Board by 4PM Thursday, February, 18<sup>th</sup>. Please get a Laser tag waiver signed *before* you go to the activity. You can pick up a Laser tag waiver from your LAs or the CIP Office.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, we will not have a weekend activity since it is the beginning of Spring Break. The following weekend, March 5<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*.

## Outdoor Laser Tag

*Have fun and be safe!*

### Signing up for Activities

In US culture, it is considered impolite to sign up for an event and then skip it without telling anyone. Therefore, if you sign up for an activity, please go! If you can't attend, let the CIP office know so that another student who really wants to go has the chance.

### 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 Emily.

### Weather

Florida is known as "The Sunshine State," but that doesn't mean that we will have warm, sunny weather all year. The weather in Florida can be a little crazy sometimes. Remember to check the forecast early because we will have a few more weeks of cool morning weather and many more rainy days. If you don't have warm clothes or an umbrella, ask your teachers for advice on where to go shopping. Missing class because of bad weather is not an excuse!

### 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:** 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.

**Travel and I-20s:** If you plan to travel outside the country during Spring Break, you should make sure your I-20 has a valid signature on page 2 before you go in order to ensure that you will be able to return to the US when the break is over! If it doesn't, get it signed in the ELI office before you leave.

## Student Corner

This week, I am happy to present a new section of the *Weekly* featuring student writing. The first entry below was written by Isabel Bonnet from Venezuela about her experience living as a student in Gainesville.

### Bipolar

Our meeting marked a new chapter in my life, a new start in life more adult. This budding love is the most tragic history that a playwright would have liked to write. You gave me the illusion of a better life, but you have separated me from my loved ones, taking me off my villain customs. Although that together, you made me more independent, I can fly with my own wings now knowing that you will always be close to me. At mornings, carried by your sweet scent, we go to classes. At the afternoon I eat your meals, even if they are all too pragmatic and humdrum, you let me share them with my friends. In the evening, my egocentrism takes front and we eat "my meals", the ones I used to eat all the time before I met you. This link, which unites us, could be seen as a perfect love of contemporary literature, yet your bipolarity destabilizes me every day. Your coldness saddens my days, but the time a gust of wind caresses my cheeks that makes me shiver, the beautiful colors of your joy install themselves the next day. You are unpredictable, full of bitter and joyful colors, you're the reflection of your own contrary. You give me the ambition to happen to know you one day, and to love you as we should love the one that gave us an identity. Full of hope and ardor: I love you, Gainesville.

*If you are interested in submitting your writing about life at the ELI or in Gainesville, contact Christine at [christinevoigt@ufl.edu](mailto:christinevoigt@ufl.edu).*

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 15 to February 21:

Students:

February 16: Dina Altwiley  
February 19: Shabab Alotaibi  
February 21: Faisal Alhussein  
February 21: Ammar Attia

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## 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 during a class?*

A: Take the first available private opportunity to tell your 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*!

*predict* (\_\_\_\_) - to say an event will happen in the future

Word forms: prediction, predictable

Collocates: accurately, reliably, fail to

## Quote of the Week

Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.

Ella Fitzgerald



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