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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Midterms

Good luck on your exams!

There is no scheduled ELI trip this weekend, as it is the beginning of our Summer Break! Meanwhile, this week, many classes will be holding Midterm Exams. Good luck on your exams, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **Summer Break and I-20s**
Summer break is less than a week away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada or Mexico—please remember to come to the office to have your I-20 signed so that you won't have trouble getting back into the country!
- **July 4th Holiday**—On Monday, July 5th, there will be no classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday.

Summer Weather Safety

We've come to realize in the past that not all of our students are aware of our unique weather problems in Central Florida. One hazard that you should watch out for is **lightning**. We have more thunderstorms in the

summertime here in Florida than there are in a year in any place else in the world, so lightning here is a serious danger. Whenever there is a thunderstorm threatening, you should go inside as soon as possible. A car is also a safe place. **DO NOT** stand under a tree or near anything that might be the tallest thing in the area or use a metal-tipped umbrella, as that is exactly where lightning is most likely to hit.

Another thing that you should prepare for (though it's certainly much less likely than thunderstorms!) is **hurricanes**. You can go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> to keep apprised of hurricane activity, and they also have some excellent preparation and planning tips in their left-hand navigation menu. Also, of course, if there is any hurricane threatening Gainesville, we here at the ELI will keep you informed and make sure you know what to do and where to go. The main thing about the NOAA website is that they have some excellent tips about early preparation!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, there will be no trip, as it is the start of our Summer Break. The next activity will be a visit to

Crescent Beach, on Saturday, July 3rd. Details on this trip will be in the next issue of the *Weekly* and on the Activities Board.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the weeks of June 18-July 1:

Students:

June 24: Aminata Ouedraogo

Staff:

June 19: Emily Kirby

June 29: Valentina Komaniecka

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans open the door for strangers?

A: We don't always. This is more a big-city vs. small-town custom. I don't really have much of a problem opening the door to strangers here in Gainesville, particularly in the apartment complex where I live, because it's a low-crime area and there really isn't any reason for me not to. Still, I have a tendency to leave my door locked even when I'm at home

and to use the peephole to look out before I do open the door.

Q: Why do you say, "Bless you," when a student sneezes?

A: This is just generally what we say for a sneeze—we also occasionally use the German phrase, "Gesundheit!" It's customary for us to say it when anybody sneezes. To leave the sneeze unacknowledged is considered rude.

Q: Do Americans like foreign students?

A: In my experience, we do. Obviously, I can't speak for the other 315 million or so people in the US, but we are a pretty friendly bunch, and we do like to find out about other cultures.

Q: Why aren't there more convenience stores in the US?

A: Just as a personal observation, it seems to me that this is a peculiarity of Gainesville. Many of our towns and cities actually do seem to have more of them per capita, with less distance between them. The town that I moved here from certainly did.

Grammar

Q: Which is correct: "I wanna see a movie," or "I want to see a movie"?

A: This is an interesting point that is terribly confusing for many foreign speakers. Basically, the first one is what we say and the second one is what we write. This is called reduction, and it's a phenomenon that occurs when our speech starts to run the sounds of common phrases together. After many years, decades or centuries of use, the

reduction often actually becomes the written word.

Q: Is there an easy way to learn irregular and phrasal verbs?

A: No, unfortunately, there isn't. It's one of those things like vocabulary in general that only comes with memorization and practice.

Quote of the Week

Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the first suffering, how we can turn it into good. So shall we take occasion, from one bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers.

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