

Midterms are Coming!

There is no scheduled ELI trip this weekend because many classes will have midterm exams next week. Not all classes have midterm exams, so you should ask your teachers about your classes.

Here are some tips to help you do well on the exams and to improve your English overall.

1. Do the activities in the book that your instructor didn't assign. Often, teachers do not have enough time in class to do every activity, so you can get some extra practice in this way.
2. Find activities online. Quizlet is a great website for this. For example, are you having trouble learning the past participles of verbs? Search for "past participles" on Quizlet to find study guides for you.
3. Use what you learn in different classes. The students who make the most progress can take what they learn in one class and use it in another class. For example, use the grammar from your grammar class in your writing. Or, use the transitions from your writing class when you give a presentation in listening and speaking class.
4. Get plenty of sleep and eat well!
5. Ask your teachers for help! Your teachers can do many things, but they cannot read your mind. If you need help, ask for it!

Things to Look Forward to

You may not be very excited about midterm exams, but there are many things to look forward to for the rest of the semester.

Spring Break

Spring Break is a week-long vacation. This year, Spring Break runs from March 4th—March 8th. This is a great opportunity to travel and practice your English in a new environment. If you plan on traveling outside of the United States, make sure the travel authorization of your I-20 is signed. Ask Daryl if you have any questions about your I-20.

ELI Talent Show

We will have an ELI Talent Show on April 5th. There is a lot of time to prepare, but now is the time to start thinking about what talent you want to share with the ELI!

The CIP Insider

Your place to find out what is going on with the Cultural Immersion Program!

Thursday Activity– Arts and Crafts at the Reitz

This Thursday, come show your artistic skills with the ELI. We will be visiting the Reitz Union Arts & Crafts Center. We will be decorating dishes. Make something for yourself or trade with a partner!

When: Thursday, February 21st from 6:00–8:00.

Where: Reitz Union Basement

What to Bring: \$5-10 to buy a dish that you can decorate and take home

Saturday Activity– Studying for your Midterms

This Saturday, the ELI will not have a CIP event. This is because the ELI does not want to distract you from studying for your midterm exams. So, take this weekend to catch up on sleep, homework, or whatever else you need to do to prepare yourself!

When: Saturday, February 23rd

Where: Your apartment, the library, or under a nice tree

What to Bring: Your textbooks, old tests, and any study guides your teachers have given you!

Volunteer Opportunity – Project Makeover

While there is no regular CIP activity this weekend, there will be a small volunteering opportunity. A small number of students will be able to volunteer with Project Makeover. Students will help paint and make over a local elementary school. If you are interested, check the CIP Activities Board or talk to Nate in the CIP office.

ELI Instagram Student Takeovers

Thank you to Santiago for doing an amazing job taking over the ELI Instagram last Thursday! If any other students are interested in showing a day in your lives later this semester you can come by the CIP office in Matherly 211 or email eirini@ufl.edu.

Conversation Partner Meeting

There will be a Conversation Partner Meeting Wednesday, February 27th at 5:10 PM in Matherly 6. Bring your Conversation Partner and friends! We will play language games and learn about our friends' cultures.

If you would like to practice presenting at the meeting, email Ryann at conversationpartner@eli.ufl.edu! It is a good idea to present about your country, culture, or experience in the United States. You can speak for as long as you want. See you there!

Hold Onto Your Butts

A cigarette butt is the part of the cigarette that remains after someone smokes it. This part contains the filter of the cigarette.

If you smoke, please throw away your cigarette butts into a garbage can. The areas where students smoke outside of Matherly Hall are covered in cigarette butts from ELI students. This is ugly and makes the University of Florida campus less beautiful.

Additionally, you should always find a place to throw away your cigarette butts even when you are not on campus. Cigarettes are the most littered item in the world. This means that cigarette butts are the most common item that people just throw on the ground when they are finished with them. This has many negative effects for our environment. It can take 10 years for a cigarette butt to bio-degrade, or break apart, in the ocean. When cigarette butts do break down, they break into small pieces of plastic. After that, animals eat these pieces of plastic. One study showed that 70% of sea birds and 30% of sea turtles have these plastics in their bodies.

The problem of cigarette butts is getting so bad that some areas are taking action. In California and Hawaii, lawmakers are considering completely banning cigarettes with filters. Cigarette filters do not make cigarettes less dangerous, so they do not serve any beneficial purpose. These lawmakers argue that if cigarettes did not have filters, the problem of cigarette butts would not be as bad.

So, if you smoke, please throw extinguish and throw away your cigarette butt into a trash can. Help keep our campus beautiful and our environment safe!

Useful Expressions of the Week

Expressions of the Week: On the first page, you saw these underlined phrases:

Phrase One: look forward to

- There are many things to look forward to for the rest of the semester.

Look forward to is a very useful phrase. It means to be excited about something in the future. After **look forward to**, we need to use a noun or a gerund. For example:

Noun: I am looking forward to lunch today.

Gerund: I am looking forward to seeing you tonight.

Phrase Two: catch up

- Take this weekend to catch up on sleep,

Catch up is a phrasal verb. It means to do something that you should have done before, or to get to a place where you should be. The opposite of **catch up** is **fall behind**. **Catch up** is followed by the preposition **on**. For example, you should **catch up on** sleep if you didn't sleep much last night, or you can **catch up on** the news if you have not read the news in a while.

Happy birthday!

Wish the following people a happy birthday this week!

Students:

February 20th: Yousef Waheeb

February 20th: Juan Arevalo Cardenas

February 21st: Hassan Alshahrani

February 23rd: Khadija Alanzi

February 25th: Keumdal Jung

Staff:

February 25th: Olga Moody