

## Highlights

- Hoggetowne Medieval Faire
- Conversation Partners
- Manners & Culture
- Afternoon Activities
- Notes from the Office
- Grammar

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Medieval Faire

*Spend a day in the past!*

The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire is an annual tradition in Gainesville; here, you can enjoy music, crafts, tournaments, games, and food typical of Europe in the Middle Ages.

**When/Where:** Saturday, January 25th. We will meet at Norman Garage at 10am and carpool.

**What to Bring:** The cost for entrance to the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire is \$19 for adults and \$9 for folks age 17 and under. Also, bring extra cash for food, games, and souvenirs.

Remember to sign up for the Faire on the Activities Board outside of the CIP office, Matherly 211, by Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm.

### The Thursday Activity

This Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be going to **Downtown Gainesville** and having a **Scavenger Hunt!** You can find out what fun things there are to do in Downtown Gainesville while participating in a fun competition with your new ELI Friends. We will meet at Bo Diddley Plaza at 6pm and go 'til around 9pm.

### Conversation Partners

This coming Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our Conversation Partner-ELI Student Meetings. Please choose ONE of the following meetings to sign up for a Conversation Partner:

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:  
11:45am, McCarty A 2186  
12:50pm, Matherly 112  
1:55pm, Matherly 112  
Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>:  
5:15pm, Matherly 114

### The Next Trip

Next Saturday, February 1, will be the first **Volunteer Day** of the semester. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

### Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week from 6:30-9:30 pm every afternoon:

Monday	<i>Monday Mixer! Bowling, pool, and ping-pong in the Reitz Union Game Room</i>
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Tuesday	<i>Soccer at Flavet Field</i>
Wednesday	<i>Volleyball at Lexington Crossing</i>
Thursday	<i>Rotating Thursdays! Stay tuned.</i>
Friday	<i>Café Friday at Starbucks in Butler Plaza</i>

### Notes from the Office

**An important day:** Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day to drop or add a class, pay tuition, turn in financial guarantees, and submit proof of insurance or immunizations. If you miss this deadline, go to the ELI Main Office in Matherly 223 immediately. If you don't do this, you could be removed from classes or charged a late fee!

#### Dropping a Class or Withdrawing:

Students who drop a class (including electives) or withdraw from the ELI after the drop/add deadline on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, will not receive a refund or credit for their courses, and their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw).

**Elective Classes:** This semester, the ELI is offering two extra elective classes. An IELTS test preparation class meets on

Mondays and Wednesdays. You must be in R/W 40 or higher to take this class.

**Office Etiquette:** When you visit the office, it's important to use good manners. If the office is crowded, wait for your turn to talk. If everyone is patient and polite, the office staff can help you more quickly.

**Hallway Etiquette:** Remember that many UF faculty and staff have offices open to the hallways on campus (for example, the ELI, the Department of Economics, and PURC all have offices on the second floor of Matherly Hall). For this reason, if you are having conversations in the hallways, please remember to keep the noise level down, so that people trying to work are not disturbed. Also, remember that the conversations you have in the hallways should always be appropriate for a professional workplace. For example, you should not be talking about private health or academic information in the public hallway. You should also avoid any conversations you would not want your boss or mom to overhear, **even in your own language—remember**, there are other students AND staff who may understand you.

**myELI:** When you applied to the ELI, you received your Login name and Password for my.eli.ufl.edu. On this website, you can see important announcements, check your schedule, monitor your attendance, upload important documents, and many other

things! If you have problems with the website, come to the ELI office for help.

**Feeling Sick?** If you are sick, let your teachers know by email so that they can decide how to help you. If you are going to be absent for 5 or more days, please let the office know. Finally, if you need help making an appointment with a doctor, talk to Victoria Dolce in the main office

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 22 to January 28:

Students:

January 22: Auws Kabouha  
January 23: Khaled Al Fahad  
January 25: Dawon Kim  
January 26: Puxiaolu

Staff:

January 24: Lynne Clark  
January 26: Tate Quiñones

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## 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: 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.

## Quote of the Week

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

Benjamin Lee Whorf



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