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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Midterms

Study up this weekend!

This weekend, there will be no CIP activity, as next week is our Midterms week before Summer Break.

CIP Activities

Monday, June 10 – Coffee Talk – 6:30 – 9:00pm

Socialize with LAs and ELI friends at the **Starbucks** on Archer Road! Play games, speak English, and drink a coffee or get dinner at the restaurants nearby! Take bus 1, 12, or 34.
Address: 3524 SW Archer Rd #160, Gainesville, FL 32608

Tuesday, June 11th – Volleyball – 6:30 – 9:00pm

Play volleyball and hang out at **Lexington Crossing Apartments Phase 2** Volleyball Courts with us! No experience necessary! Take bus 35.
Address: 3700 SW 27th St, Gainesville, FL 32608

Wednesday, June 12th – Soccer – 6:30 – 9:00pm

Come play Soccer on campus at **Flavet Field** on campus! No experience necessary!
Address: Woodlawn Dr, Gainesville, FL 32603

Thursday, June 13th – Midpoint Park & Eatery – 5:30 – 8:00pm

Eat food and hangout at this park with lots of food truck options! They have vegan food, tacos, pizza, and corn dogs. Take lots of fun pictures in their giant chairs and hammocks with your friends. This location is only a 15 minute walk from campus!
Address: 931 SW 2nd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Friday, June 14th – Reitz Game Room – 6:30 – 9:00pm

Hang out with friends in the **Reitz Game Room!** You can go bowling, play pool, and play board games! Bring your Gator1 ID for cheaper rates.
Address: 655 Reitz Union Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611

Conversation Partners

Want to meet with a fluent English speaker and make a new friend? Sign up for a CP! If you choose to sign up, you must meet with your partner for one hour a week. It can take up to two weeks to get a partner from when you sign up. Please sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/nSD5at6r7nowjvq89>

Please email Rachel at conversationpartners@eli.ufl.edu for any issues, questions or concerns or

visit her in the CIP Office during office hours.

Other CIP Reminders

Don't forget to get your CIP Passport hole punched from the activity leaders AT the event (not after). **We don't hole punch passports after the event.** Redeem your completed passport for a small gift, a photo for the ELI Instagram, and your name published in the ELI weekly!

Need a new CIP Passport? Stop by the CIP Office!
Remember the CIP Pineapple is hidden in a new place every Monday in the CIP office. Stop by and find it for hole punches!

CIP Photo of the Week

From Game Night



Absences and Tardies

Students have been asking questions about absences and tardies. Here are some reminders and answers to some FAQs. If you have questions, be sure to talk to Christine or check your student guide to read the full ELI attendance policy. Do not ask your friends... that is how *rumors* get started!

Class attendance is a requirement of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for F-1 visa holders. It is also required by the ELI. If you arrive to class late, you will be marked tardy. Three tardies equals one absence. You are considered late as soon as the class time starts, and your teacher begins teaching. Students and teachers are expected to arrive in the classroom several minutes before the start of class so that the teacher can start on time. If you miss more than 20 minutes of a class for any reason, you will be marked absent.

There are no “excused” absences at the ELI. If you are not physically in the class, your teachers **MUST** mark you absent, no matter what the reason. However, if you have a good reason for being absent (you are ill or are celebrating a religious holiday, for example), your teachers will let you make up the work you missed. If you will be absent for a religious holiday, you must let your teachers know in advance.

There are many good reasons you might not be able to attend class, but because 35 hours is like missing 7 full days of class, this should give you plenty of time to do things like make appointments, stay home if you are ill, or celebrate religious holidays. You also have many days when there are not classes: 6/19, 6/24-6/28, and 7/4-5.

Here are the answers to some FAQs:

- If I bring a doctor’s note to Christine, can she erase my absences?

o No. It is impossible to “erase” absences at the ELI. However, you should save any doctors notes or other documentation of your absences in case you go over 15% and want to petition to receive a certificate.

- If I attend all of the CIP activities, can it “balance out” my absences in class?

o No. Attendance at the CIP activities cannot make up for absences in class.

- I went to my class and put my backpack in my seat, but then I needed to answer a phone call, so went outside. Why did my teacher mark me absent, even though I was there on time?

o If you miss 20 minutes of a class, teachers must mark you absent, even if you are there on time. So, if you sat in class for 10 minutes, then you left for 15 minutes to talk on the phone, then you returned to the class for 10 minutes, then you stepped out to use the restroom and talk to your friend in the hallway for 5 minutes, then returned to class for the final 10 minutes, you would be marked absent.

- I was just 3 minutes late to class and the teacher was only reviewing the homework when I arrived. Why did he mark me tardy?

o Students are expected to be in class and paying attention at the start of the class time. Your teachers can mark you tardy any time after that.

- I missed more than 15% of my classes because I had an accident and was in the hospital. Can I still receive a certificate?

o Yes, if you saved your medical documentation, spoke to Christine about your situation, and told your teachers what was happening so you could make up your classwork, you can submit a petition to receive a certificate.

Do you have more questions about attendance at the ELI? Send them to ELI Weekly Editor, Todd Allen (toddy33@ufl.edu), and we will answer them for everyone in the Weekly!

Notes from the Office

Juneteenth Holiday: Wednesday, June 19th is a US holiday. This holiday commemorates the day that African-Americans in Texas learned of their 1863 emancipation from enslavement on June 19th, 1865. There will be no ELI Classes this day, and the ELI Office will be closed. Also, there will be reduced RTS Bus service. If you would like to learn more about the holiday, the UF Smathers Libraries has an excellent resource page here: <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/aas/juneteenth>

Summer Break: Week after next will be Summer Break. There will be no ELI classes, but the ELI office will be open.

July 4th Holiday: Thursday, July 4th is US Independence Day. On this day, there will be no ELI Classes, and the ELI office and the university are closed. Also, there will be reduced RTS Bus service. You can check the schedules at go-RTS.com. We will also be taking Friday, July 5th as a Teacher Work Day. Please remember that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd are regular days of class and that your attendance will be counted.

Tobacco-Free Campus: You are not allowed to vape, smoke, or use any tobacco anywhere on UF campus. This includes bathrooms, parking lots, and outdoor areas of campus. It includes Lake Wauburg, Matherly Courtyard, the Plaza of Americas, and every outdoor space on campus. This policy is for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors. ELI students should **NEVER** vape or smoke ANYWHERE on campus. If you need help quitting, you can visit <https://tobaccofree.ufl.edu/>. Also, even if you are smoking off-campus, remember that throwing cigarette butts on the ground is considered littering and you can be ticketed.

Student Voices Deadline

At the ELI, we love to read your writing! Do you want to share your writing with the ELI? *The ELI Student Voices* is a great opportunity!

Every semester, the ELI publishes a collection of student writing. You can send a piece of your writing to be published for everyone to read. You can send paragraphs, essays, stories, recipes, poetry, and even photos. Also, the best two pieces of writing will be recognized at the ELI Commencement ceremony at the end of the semester. For inspiration, you can find previous editions of *The ELI Student Voices* on the ELI website. To submit your writing, please email Thomas Dolce at tomdolce@ufl.edu. Please include your name and class. The last day to submit a piece of writing is July 19th. We can't wait to read your writing!

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the weeks of June 10 to June 16:

Students:

June 10: Mohammed Almuwayni

June 11: Bruno Cardoso Gonçalves

Staff:

None this week!

Happy birthday!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why is public transportation poor in most American cities?

A: The United States is very wide and has a lot of open space. Many of the major cities outside of the Northeast and Upper Midwest became large cities after the invention of the automobile. These two factors created a need for a strong highway system, rather than a strong public transportation system as is

common in older countries. Rising oil prices, increasingly clogged traffic, and damages to our environment are forcing us to reconsider these choices. In recent years, most cities with metropolitan populations in the US over about 2 million have put in at least light rail systems and dedicated bus lanes, if not new metro systems.

Q: Why don't the buses run at night on the weekends?

A: The bus routes are based on ridership and profits. During the week, all of the bus routes are busy and there are more bus routes. The more people that need a route, the more busses that run on that route. Not as many people ride the bus late at night on the weekends, so RTS doesn't offer as many routes because it would be a waste of resources.

Student Corner

This week's Country is Kuwait.



Capital: Kuwait City

Population: $\leq 4,300,000$

Fun fact: More than 60% of Kuwait population are not Kuwaitis. In fact, 2/3 of people living in Kuwait are from over 120 different countries in the world.

Three things to know:

1. The national currency of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD), is the highest-value

currency in the world. On May 6, 2024, 1 KWD = 3,25 USD.

2. The tallest curved concrete skyscraper in the world, The Al Hamra Tower, is located in Kuwait.
3. It is possible to visit Kuwait by car from North to South, from East to West in less than 10 hours.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "borrow" and "lend"?

A: It's the same as the difference between "take" and "give". You borrow something from someone. That someone lends it to you. Interestingly, we are involved in a shift in usage. The verb "lend" is rapidly disappearing and being replaced by what used to be exclusively the noun "loan".

- Can I borrow a pencil?
- Can you lend me a pencil?
- Can you loan me a pencil?
- Can I take a pencil?
- Can you give me a pencil?

Quote of the Week

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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