

# ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of the English Language Institute

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## Food, Friends ... and a Flea Market



Join your ELI family this **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**, for a day of shopping for bargains and watching fascinating people. With almost one thousand vendors selling everything from music to vegetables to jewelry, the I-75 Super Flea Market is a unique cultural experience! At the market, it's possible to buy both new and secondhand things, many of which might make inexpensive, interesting gifts for folks in your home country.

If you are interested in going, you may sign up on the activities board by **5pm** on **Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave Norman Garage at **10AM** on Saturday morning. Entrance to the market is free, however you should bring money for lunch and shopping. Most vendors will probably only accept cash, not credit or debit cards. You can learn more about our destination on [www.i75superflea.com](http://www.i75superflea.com).

**Interesting Note:** According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the term “flea market” originated from the French “*marché aux puces*”—a playful term implying that the goods sold in flea markets were infested with bugs. While some people balk at secondhand shopping, most see flea markets as an opportunity to go treasure hunting; you never know what you may find!



## Class Attendance

A gentle reminder that the first and best way to succeed at the ELI is to go to class every day. And if that's not enough incentive, don't forget that missing more than fifteen-percent of classes will make a student ineligible to receive a certificate of completion at the end of the semester.

## Summer Break and I-20s

Summer break is only two and a half weeks away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break, 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!

## Student Mail

Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time and see if you've received any letters.

## Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes this week to:

June 7: Chien Sung

June 13: Jung Hoon Kim

Belated birthday wishes to:

June 2: Omar Farias

## Inside this issue:

Entering the University | Hurricanes | Manners and Culture

***Q: What should I do if someone brings up a sensitive cultural topic at the ELI and it makes me uncomfortable?***

A: This is an excellent question! I'm sure that there are just as many answers as people who have wondered about this question. Since we're a very diverse group at the ELI, topics that may be considered taboo to you might well come up during class or in conversations with other students. These might include issues related to religion, history, politics, and any number of other things.

When a sensitive issue comes up, my best advice is to speak honestly and respectfully about it. If you can, explain why it is an uncomfortable issue. If you can't, it's also always OK to say you're not comfortable with the discussion. Most will respect your privacy.

In the US, we generally value the free exchange of ideas in the classroom but we don't want anyone to ever feel upset or unsafe. If you have specific concerns, talk with your teacher

***Q: Why do some people have tattoos all over their bodies? Do they get tattoos for their job or because they find it interesting?***

A: I suppose that depends on the person. In general, people have tattoos because they feel they are meaningful or beautiful. There are probably not many businesses that require their employees to get tattoos; it's safe to assume that, if a person has a tattoo, it's because she or he likes them.

***Q: Do I have to attend all of the ELI activities in order to win a scholarship?***

A: No, but it helps.



*Thanks for your questions. Keep them coming! If you have a question about U.S. manners and culture, please email our ELI Weekly editor, Nora Spencer, at [noraspencer@gmail.com](mailto:noraspencer@gmail.com), or put questions in her mailbox (marked **Spencer** in the ELI Main Office).*



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