

## Highlights

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- Birthdays
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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Islands of Adventure *Theme Park Fun!*

On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be headed to Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure. We will meet at the TRiP office in Reitz Union at 8:00am. We will return to Gainesville around 11pm.

What to Bring: Money for food, walking shoes, sunscreen, and a passion for roller coasters!

Want to go? You will need a van pass from the TRiP Office to be able to go. Van tickets are \$25.00. You may also buy your Islands of Adventure ticket at this time for \$45.00 + tax. If you buy your park ticket on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the park, you will have to pay \$63.00 + tax. Remember, we have 12 spots on the van... if it is not full, the trip will be **CANCELLED!**

## Notes from the Office

- **Smoking:** We have noticed that some folks are smoking right under the "No Smoking" signs outside the Florida Room. Remember, students, that it is state law now that not only is there no smoking inside state buildings, you must be at least 50 feet from the building to smoke

at all. Please do not smoke in this area, even if you see other people doing so. Remember, you are representing not only the ELI when you're here, but you are also representing your country and affecting people's opinions of you. Smoking is permitted at the picnic tables adjacent to the small parking lot on the northeast side of Norman Hall (right across from the Credit Union).

- **Noise in the Hallways:** Everyone, please remember that we share the third floor of Norman Hall with other classrooms and offices. We've had some gentle reminders from some of our neighbors already this semester that the enthusiasm of our students is a little too high-spirited. In between your classes, if you have to socialize a lot, please keep it down or go outside. Our neighbors will thank you!
- **English in the Hallways:** While we're on the subject of socializing in the hallways, we've noticed this semester that some of you don't seem to realize that it's part of your ELI experience to speak English only while you're here. Please don't speak languages other than English

while you're on the third floor of Norman Hall.

- **Lost and Found:** If you lose something or if you find something that someone else has lost, we want you to know that we keep a lost and found box in the ELI Main Office. Apparently, there are already a few new items in the box this semester!

## Afternoon Activities

Here is our afternoon activity schedule for the semester:

MONDAY: Basketball 4:30pm @ Norman Parking Garage (Forest)

TUESDAY: Pool and Bowling 4:30pm @ Reitz Union Game Room (Heather)

WEDNESDAY: Coffee Talk 7pm @ Kay's Coffee (Michelle and Andrew)

THURSDAY: Thoroughly Thrilling Thursdays (time will vary, Bethany)

FRIDAY: Gator Nights 6pm @ Reitz Information Desk (Danijela and Jon)

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the semester. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 14-20:

Students:

September 17: Dominique Garcia

Staff:

September 14: Andrew Hesler

Happy birthday one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: When the service is not good, do I have to tip?*

A: No. BUT...don't just get up and not leave a tip. The thing is, this will most likely just get you talked about in

the restaurant as someone who is just cheap. If the service is bad enough to warrant not leaving a tip, you should ask to speak to the management of the restaurant and explain to them how the service was bad. If they don't know about it, then the service will just continue to be bad!

*Q: Why are we counted absent after three tardies?*

A: Because being late is almost the same as being absent. If you're tardy, you're missing out on important information, and it's disruptive to the class.

*Q: Why do people in the US like to suntan?*

A: Because there are a lot of idiots who are slaves to fashion over health, and it's still considered by some people to be fashionable. Experts warn that there is no such thing as "safe" tanning, period. Tanning itself is actually a representation of damage to the skin. People hate listening to experts.

## Grammar

*Q: What's the difference between a gerund and an infinitive?*

A: First of all, I assume that you're not just asking for the definition—that is, that a gerund is the "ing" form of a verbal and an infinitive is the "to" form of a verbal. As to the use, this is one where we have entire textbook sections to try to explain. The thing is, there's no real logical answer—it's a frustrating truth for both grammar teachers and for students of English that this topic is one in which the only real way to know the difference ultimately is to memorize and practice. There is one principle (NOT a rule—it doesn't always work) that may help. Often, infinitives are used for things that haven't happened yet (with verbs such as *want* and *plan*) and gerunds are used for things that have already happened or are habits (with verbs such as *enjoy* and *quit*).

## Quote of the Week

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.

--Maya Angelou

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