

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 105, Issue 2  
January 18, 2008*



## Paintball!

*Come out and have some fun!*

This Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we are going to play **Paintball!**

Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:00 pm. We will return mid-afternoon

How: The cost is \$20 for equipment and 200 paintballs. You may purchase 500 paintballs for \$35.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 3pm. We need 20 people to get our own field!

So come and play!

## Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one of them!

- **Class Attendance**-Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day.
- **Martin Luther King Holiday**-In case you didn't know, this coming Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, is a US Federal Holiday. The ELI and the University will be closed, and there will be no mail, banking, or bus service.
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already.

## 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 from January 11-24:

Students:  
January 13: Sung-Jin Kang  
January 13: Carolina Velásquez  
January 16: Ricardo Morgado

January 22: Mariana Villasmil

Staff:  
None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Brazil	Japan
Burkina Faso	Korea
Chile	Kuwait
China	Panama
Colombia	Peru
Congo	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Taiwan
France	Thailand
Germany	Turkey
Haiti	Ukraine
Honduras	United States
Iran	Venezuela
Iraq	Vietnam

## Manners and Culture

We could use some questions, everyone! Teachers, it's a great idea to have students write down a few as a small project; and

students, if you have anything that you would like to ask about, don't be shy! Just write down your questions and give them to your teacher, or just walk into the ELI Main Office, 315, and place it in my mailbox—the teacher box marked **ALLEN**. Meanwhile, recently, several students have inquired about tipping rules. So, we're running our traditional beginning-of-the-semester column on tipping:

When do you tip? Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator—though not a totally exhaustive list—of when and where and how much you should tip:

**Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors:** 15 to 20% of the total bill

**Hotels:** Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total—sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

**Parking:** Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

**Pizza Delivery:** \$1 per pizza

**Restaurants:** 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour—less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

**Taxis:** \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly

large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two—but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

### Quote of the Week

The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

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