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The ELI Weekly

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Summer Break

Staying in Florida? There's lots to do!

Next weekend, Saturday, June 21st, marks the beginning of our **Summer Break**.

If you do not yet have any plans for Summer Break, we have some suggestions for you! Within an easy day's drive from Gainesville, you will find Atlanta at one end and Miami at the other, with Savannah, Jacksonville, Cedar Key, Orlando, Tampa/St. Petersburg, and many other interesting places in between. There are a number of good Internet resources to help you locate last-minute hotel and flight reservations, notably Travelocity, Expedia, and Orbitz, found at <http://www.travelocity.com/>, <http://www.expedia.com/>, and <http://www.orbitz.com/>. And, if you really want good bargains and are feeling adventurous, then you can try out Priceline bidding at <http://www.priceline.com/>. If you're planning on renting a car, then be sure to call all of the companies in town to check on the available rates.

If you would like advice on travel, especially if you're going to Orlando or staying here in the Southeast, then please feel free to ask me about it anytime. You may stop by my office

(Room 310) or e-mail me at toddy33@ufl.edu and I'll get back to you as quickly as possible!

If you are among those staying in Gainesville, there are lots of things to do, too! If you like museums, there are the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History, both located on the southwest side of campus. Each of these provides a nice afternoon of cultural enjoyment. If you like nature, check out the Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. And if you like bicycling, there is the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail -- 15 miles of paved cycling trail that winds through Paynes Prairie and beyond. Also, you can try the Depot Avenue/Waldo Road trail system.

Wherever you go and whatever you choose to do, be careful and have a great time!

Summer Weather Safety

We've come to realize in the past that not all of our students are aware of our unique weather problems in Central Florida. One hazard that you

should watch out for is **lightning**. We have more thunderstorms in the summertime here in Florida than there are in a year in any place else in the world, so lightning here is a serious danger. Whenever there is a thunderstorm threatening, you should go inside as soon as possible. A car is also a safe place. **DO NOT** stand under a tree or near anything that might be the tallest thing in the area or use a metal-tipped umbrella, as that is exactly where lightning is most likely to hit.

Another thing that you should prepare for (though it's certainly much less likely than thunderstorms!) is **hurricanes**. You can go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> to keep apprised of hurricane activity, and they also have some excellent preparation and planning tips in their left-hand navigation menu. Also, of course, if there is any hurricane threatening Gainesville, we here at the ELI will keep you informed and make sure you know what to do and where to go. The main thing about the NOAA website is that they have some excellent tips about early preparation!

Notes from the Office

- **Summer Break and I-20s**
Summer break is only a week and a half away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada or Mexico—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!
- **July 4th Holiday**—The week that we come back from break, on Friday, July 4th, there will be no classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of June 13-19:

Students:

June 13: Irek Mukharlyamov
June 14: Nasil Hwang
June 14: Jinyoung Kim

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: How can we politely decline an invitation?

A: "I'm sorry, but I can't," or "I'm sorry, but I have another commitment already." No further explanation is required.

Q: Are American people polite?

A: What a strange question. It is to be hoped, I suppose, most of us at least try to be. Are all people in all other countries polite?

Q: What is celebrated on Memorial Day?

A: Nothing, exactly. Celebrated, in this case, isn't quite the right word. Remembered or honored is more like it. Memorial Day is for remembering people who died in wars.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "how many" and "how much"?

A: The same as any case of "many" vs. "much". It's count vs. noncount nouns. We use "many" for count nouns and "much" for noncount nouns.

Q: What's the difference between "stuff" and "things"?

A: Count and noncount. "Stuff" is a noncount noun. It can't be plural. "Thing" is a count noun. We generally make it plural to mean the same basic thing as "stuff".

Q: "I" + tense is difficult for me.

A: And it is for most students of English. Heck, a lot of native speakers mess this up. Basically, the tense you choose depends on whether or not the situation is real or possible vs. unreal or impossible. We use a past tense form for the unreal (called the past subjunctive) that looks the same as the simple past, except in the case of "to be", with which we use "were" for all the forms. So, for example, the most famous one is "If I were you..." We use the unreal here because it's never possible for me to actually be you. But, this sentence: "I am going to call you if we go to the movie later," means that I don't know whether or not we will actually go, but it's possible that we might.

Quote of the Week

Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the first suffering, how we can turn it into good. So shall we take occasion, from one bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers.

Leigh Hunt



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