

Highlights

- Midterm Picnic
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 106, Issue 7
June 20, 2008*



Midterm Picnic

Meet the new ELI Students!

On Saturday, June 28th, we will be holding our Midterm Picnic. This is also the Welcome Picnic for the new B-Term students. All ELI students, staff, and friends are invited. This will be a picnic across the street at Broward Beach. There will be sports, games and great conversation.

WHEN: Saturday, June 28th at 11:30 AM. If it is raining call 392-3354 extension 230 after 10:00 AM to see if the picnic has been moved to Sunday. **Even though this is not a carpool trip, you must sign up on the activities board by 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 19th so we know how much food to order. Please also sign up your family and friends that you plan to bring!**

WHERE: Behind Broward and Yulee Halls (Across 13th Street from the ELI).

COST: This trip is completely FREE!

WHAT TO BRING: Wear tennis shoes and sunblock. We will provide the food so come hungry!!

Notes from the Office

- **Summer Break** – Of course, we assume that you already know this, but just in case, next week is our Summer Break! There will be no C-Term classes next week, from June 23-27. The ELI office will be open, however, as this will be our check-in and start-of-classes week for our new B-Term students.
- **Independence Day Holiday** – On Friday, July 4th (The Friday of the week we come back from break), there will be no ELI classes and the ELI offices will be closed for our Independence Day holiday.
- **Lost and Found** – Be sure to check in the ELI Main Office if you lose anything in the classrooms or in the hallways. The lost and found box is usually full of interesting stuff!
- **Bulletin Boards**-Students, please do not post anything on any of the ELI bulletin boards without obtaining permission from the ELI Main Office, Room 315.

The Next Trip

Our next ELI activity will be **Fanfares and Fireworks**, on Thursday, July 3rd. Details will be on the Activities Board and in the next *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the weeks of June 20-July 3:

Students:
June 25: Bruna Cavalcanti
July 3: Talal Al-Ghamdi

Staff:
June 26: Daire Seaman
June 29: Valentina Komaniecka

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: If I am late to an appointment with an American, what should I do?

A: Well, the number one answer here would be for me to tell you not to be. However, unavoidable things do happen. The main thing that you should do when it is unavoidable is to

call as soon as you know you're going to be late. Calling after the fact is better than nothing, but it's better to keep the person informed at the time they are waiting. Here in the US, we consider it rude, arrogant, and selfish to be late without a good reason (like, maybe you're in the hospital)--and borderline unforgivable to not show up without calling personally. It implies to us that you think that your own time is more important than ours.

Q: Sometimes friends offer me rides because I don't have a car. Is it enough for me just to say, "Thanks!"?

A: It's a good start. If it's one or two friends who do it a lot, then you might want to occasionally offer to buy them some gas, particularly these days.

Q: Why don't teachers here dress formally? For example, they wear shorts to school.

A: This is not so much an American thing as it is a Florida thing. Fashion here is just much more casual than in some other parts of the country, largely due to the weather and the resort-like atmosphere that pervades

much of the state. I personally am one of the teachers that you mention in your question. When I first started working here 14 years ago, I didn't wear shorts. And then I noticed that many of my colleagues did, so I adopted the practice. Fashion is often dictated by local custom.

Grammar

Editor's Note:

Folks, I have had several people ask me this semester to explain the use of the definite and indefinite articles (*a*, *an*, and *the*) here in the column. I just want to let you know that I'm not ignoring the requests completely, but I really haven't figured out a way to condense something that complex into a space this small! This is an issue that gets entire textbook chapters devoted to it.

Q: What tenses can I use with the expression, "from time to time"?

A: This is a frequency expression that basically indicates a habit. So, you can use any of the simple tenses, plus "used to" and "be going to".

Q: Do "though", "even though", and "although" have the same meaning?

A: At the beginning of a dependent clause, yes. "Though" by itself has a special use, though. It can be used at the end of a sentence to indicate that the speaker or writer is going to add or just added an extra idea. As I just did in the second sentence in this paragraph.

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".

Quote of the Week

Fight for your opinions, but do not believe that they contain the whole truth, or the only truth.

Charles A. Dana



English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
315 Norman Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-2070
Fax: (352) 392-3744
Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu