

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Fanfares and Fireworks

*Independence Day Fun!*

Come celebrate the United States' Independence Day with music and fireworks. On Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will walk to the UF Bandshell to hear patriotic music and see the fireworks. This is a wonderful way to experience a long tradition in the United States... and to have a great time!

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**WHERE:** We will meet at Norman Garage, and then walk across campus to the UF Bandshell and Flavet Field.

**COST:** This trip is FREE!

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bring a blanket to sit on. You can bring something to eat and drink if you like, or you can bring some cash to buy food. We will walk over, so wear walking shoes. You should bring bug repellent as well.

## Notes from the Office

- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday**—Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be no classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday.
- **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. C-Term students, now is a really good time to think about checking with your teachers if you have had a few absences and making sure that you are not going over any limits or having absences affect your grade.
- **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 Trips

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

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of July 5-10:

Students:

July 5: Juneil Shin  
July 8: Douglas Castro  
July 8: Boyeon Choi

Staff:

July 8: Lili Gai

Happy Birthday, one and all!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: What's the reason that we say, "Bless you," when someone sneezes?*

A: Religious customs from the Middle Ages. There was a widespread belief at one time in history that sneezing caused the body to die for a short moment (in modern times, we do know that the heart skips a beat!) and allowed evil spirits, potentially, to enter. So, the custom evolved to say, "May God bless you," to keep the evil spirits out. The custom remains, but what we say is a little bit shorter.

*Q: What is the biggest and most important holiday in America, and what do people do on that holiday?*

A: Thanksgiving. Many people might answer Christmas instead, mainly because it generates so much over-the-top shopping and decorating, but it's Christian-specific. Thanksgiving is our big family holiday that isn't specific to any one religion or group. Thanksgiving weekend is our single largest travel period in the US, mainly because of the fact that the majority of us want to be with family, friends, and other loved ones. We gather together and have a big feast and

reflect on all the people and things that we are thankful for in our lives. As a group, we even celebrate Thanksgiving as an ELI family. If you're here in Gainesville in the fall semester, you'll get a chance to experience it with us.

## Grammar

*Q: What is the difference between say, tell, talk, and speak?*

A: Mainly, it's in the objects that they take or don't take and in the positions of the objects.

We say something (to someone).  
We talk (to someone).  
We speak a language.  
We speak to someone (more formal than talk).  
We speak at a conference or gathering (make a speech).  
We tell someone something.  
We tell (someone) the truth or a lie.

## Quote of the Week

Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens.  
Epictetus



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