

## Highlights

- Paintball
- Summer Weather
- Birthdays
- Manners

# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
Volume 107, Issue 2  
September 5, 2008



## Paintball!

*Come out and have some fun!*

This Saturday, September 6<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, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:00 pm. We will return mid-afternoon

Cost: Check the Activities Board for the most current information.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 4pm.

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 Friday, September 12<sup>th</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.

- **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 September 3-11:

Students:  
September 3: Okshin Kim  
September 4: Talal Almeebi  
September 4: Namik Tatlisu  
September 7: Yunjae Shin

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:

Bolivia	Kuwait
Brazil	Libya
Chile	Netherlands
China	Niger
Colombia	Peru
Congo	Qatar
Costa Rica	Saudi Arabia
Côte d'Ivoire	Spain
Czech Republic	Taiwan
Ecuador	Thailand
France	Turkey
Iraq	United States
Japan	Venezuela
Korea	

## 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!

## Manners and Culture

*Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.*

Interesting you should ask; usually, we don't have any questions yet, and I run a tip column instead of a manners column. So, I'm going to give you my standard answer!

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.

*Q: I want to know what it means to "go Dutch". What are the manners?*

A: Usually, among friends, when people go out to eat and do things like going to the movies that require admission prices, people each pay for their own. That's called, "going Dutch". Generally, unless someone specifically tells you that they plan to pay for you or if they say something like, "I'd like to take you out," or "It's on me," you should assume that you're going Dutch.

*Q: Why do Americans like beer so much?*

A: It seems that way, doesn't it? You're in a college town, and college students tend to drink more beer than a lot of the population at large. It's a fairly inexpensive way to consume alcohol. The US, though, isn't even in the top 10 when it comes to per capita beer consumption--we rank only 13<sup>th</sup>. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

## Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

## Quote of the Week

One has to get on with life and I haven't done badly. People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining.

— Stephen Hawking

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**  
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](mailto:StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu)  
Webpage: [www.eli.ufl.edu](http://www.eli.ufl.edu)