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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Cedar Key Seafood Festival *Old Florida charm and food!*

Come with us for a **fun day** to one of Florida's natural wonders – **Cedar Key Island in the Gulf of Mexico!** Walk around downtown and see arts and crafts from artists around the country, plus enjoy local seafood. We may also have dinner later at one of the many unique restaurants located on the water and see the beautiful scenery (and maybe dolphins!) as we enjoy our meal!

**WHEN:** The ELI will be going to Cedar Key **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the **Norman Hall garage at 11:00am**. This is a carpool trip, so you need to **sign up on the Activities Board by 5:00pm on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**COST:** You will need to **bring money to eat and shop**. The following are optional:

- 1) You can also take a 1½-hour island cruise for \$20 if you want to!!
- 2) Bring money if you want to shop or eat at the festival.
- 3) Dinner will probably be around \$10-15 per person.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Wear **comfortable clothes** and bring **sunscreen**. You will also want to wear **shoes that are comfortable to walk in**.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Friday, we will be going to the **UF Homecoming Parade**. On Saturday, we will be holding our **Midterm Picnic**, which is also our Welcome Picnic for our new B-Term Students, who will be having their check-in sessions and beginning class next week. Come out and say hi to the new ELI students! Details about the parade and the picnic will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Notes from the Office

**Homecoming Holiday**—Don't forget, folks, that next Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, is a UF holiday. There will be no classes, and the ELI Main Office, as well as much of the UF campus, will be closed.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 17-23:

Students:  
October 17: Jin Jing  
October 22: Fatimah Almahdi

Staff:

October 18: Nate Bloemke

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why don't Americans take their shoes off in the house?*

A: A perennial favorite from our Asian friends, this one! Here's an answer to the question that I published way back in Fall 2000:

This is a question that comes up every semester. And it is one that honestly seems to illustrate the point that there are simply going to be differences in cultural perception and personal habits among different groups of people. The answer is that it's not just Americans. It's pretty much a division of East and West. In the West, the foot itself is perceived, generally, as less than sanitary. As a matter of fact, going barefoot in many public places is actually sometimes a violation of sanitation regulations--this is particularly true where food is being sold or prepared. If we were to walk into the house of an acquaintance and remove our shoes upon walking in the door, it would be perceived as the act of a rude (if not perhaps even slightly crazy!) person. Among very

close friends who are just plain comfortable in the house with no shoes, it's okay, but you should remove yours only if your host does!

*Q: What do American people wear during the winter?*

A: Well, the answer to that one will vary considerably, as we have so many different climate areas here in the US. Here in Gainesville, it doesn't change much even up until January, usually, as our temperatures don't go down much below the low 60s even at night until then. From January until early March, you will find that most people will be wearing long pants, multiple layers, and jackets. Then, as spring begins, it goes back pretty much to what you are used to seeing on a daily basis now!

*Q: How can I request it if I want to borrow someone's laptop? Should I say, "Could you lend me your laptop?" or "Can I borrow your laptop?"*

A: Either one is fine in terms of the use of lend/borrow. For something as high-end as a laptop, though, I would also suggest adding softeners such as "please" and changing the

modals. So, you would say instead, "May I please borrow your laptop?" or "Would you please lend me your laptop?"

*Q: What do Americans do on the weekend?*

A: What do you do on the weekend? We'd pretty much get the same kind of variety if we asked a random group of Americans as we would if we asked a random group of ELI students. Some would say they sleep, some would say they party, some would say they travel, some would say they do household chores, some would say they study, etc. Most likely, you'd even get a combination of all of those answers. I personally, for example, always do my laundry and some light housework, and often go to Walt Disney World. I don't think you'd get the same answer if you asked any other one person here at the ELI!

## Grammar

*Q: How do I know when a verb needs a preposition?*

A: There are no rules or shortcut answers for this question. Each phrasal verb (verb/preposition

combination) has its own use and meaning, just as each individual word does, too. You should use the same techniques and practice for phrasal verbs that you do for any other vocabulary. Take note of phrasal verbs that you encounter, check the context, look them up, listen to how and when others use them, and practice as much as you can.

*Q: A friend sees me working on my homework. Which question is correct, "Have you been doing your homework?" or "Have you done your homework?"*

A: It would depend on what your friend actually wants to know. If the meaning is along the lines of asking about your activity, then the first question would be correct. If the meaning is about whether or not you have actually finished the work, then the second question would be correct.

## Quote of the Week

When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way.

--Dr. Wayne Dyer

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