

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 110, Issue 3
September 25, 2009*



Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, September 26th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet and head to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, September 24th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Gator Plunge—Volunteer alongside other folks from the UF community and work with animals, art, culture, youth, elderly, environment, homelessness, and housing! Meet at the Century Tower at 8am. We will return around 1pm.

Emeritus— Come and serve ice cream, bowl, and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful

time! We will meet at the Cabana Beach rental office at 12:45pm and return around 3pm.

Fishing for Success—Catch and release fish and help with the children's fishing competition. Meet at Norman Garage at 7:45am, and we will return around 12noon.

Blue House—Help with gardening and learn about being sustainable. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:45am, and we will return around 12noon.

Project Downtown Gainesville-- Help serve lunch to homeless people alongside other UF students. We will meet at the Norman Garage at 12:45pm and return around 2:30pm.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Nate in the CIP Office, Room 318.

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **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.
- **TOEFL Scores**--Students who had TOEFL scores sent to the main office can pick them up. These scores are only official as far as UF departments are concerned if they remain sealed in the envelope.

New Copiers in Libraries

Now that the libraries have a new copier contract, it will require all UF people, including ELI students, to open a Vending account with Gatorlink and add a minimum of \$15. In order to print or copy anything in the library, everyone will need to use their Gatorlink User IDs and have an activated Vending Account.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to play **Paintball**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Daily Activities

The following is our afternoon activity schedule. Please check the Activities Board from time to time to see if there are any changes.

Day/Time	Activity	Location/Cost
Monday 6:30 PM	Game Night (pool, bowling, board games) (Farrah)	Meet at the Reitz Union Games Room Bring your Gator 1 ID Bring \$5-10 if you want to play pool or bowl.
Tuesday 7:30 PM	Soccer (Alexandria/Jeremy)	Meet at NRN Field Free
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Coffee Talk (Allison)	Starbuck's on Archer Rd. Free (Bring money for coffee and food if you like.)
Thursday 8:00 PM	Yogurberry (Emily)	Meet at Yogurberry (Next to Chipotle) on University Ave A few \$\$
Friday 6:00 PM	Gator Nights (Jonathan/Charlotte)	Meet at the Reitz Union Information Desk. Free; Bring UF ID

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 25-October 1:

Students:

September 29: Arnold Rojas

October 1: Haifa Al Ali

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: I'm interested in manners about having meals. What should I not do when I am eating with Americans?

A: Oh, goodness, there are entire etiquette books with half of their chapters dedicated to mealtime etiquette! There are a few general guidelines, though.

1. Don't make noises with your food. When eating soup, for example, don't slurp. Just put the spoon in your mouth and eat quietly.
2. Talking during a meal is fine, but don't talk with your mouth full. Wait until you swallow.
3. Don't eat foods with your fingers that aren't designed for it. Hamburgers and sandwiches and chips are fine, but most other foods (unless you are actually eating at a

fast-food restaurant) should be eaten with utensils.

4. It's okay to offer to share your food if you want to, but we generally don't ask to try something that's on someone else's plate.
5. Don't reach across someone else to get the salt, sugar, ketchup, etc. Ask that it be passed to you.
6. It's fine to refuse a food if you can't eat it—be it for dietary reasons or religious reasons or whatever. You don't have to explain why. In fact, to do so extensively is considered bad form—especially if it's just because you don't like a certain food. If your host asks, it's rude of her/him.
7. Don't burp at the table. While it's considered a sign that the food was good in some cultures, to us, it's very rude.

Grammar

Q: Which is correct for the negative shortened response form with "hope": "I hope not," or "I don't hope so."?

A: You've noticed that we're not consistent. With "hope" the correct form is "I hope not." However, for example, with "think", it's "I don't think so."

Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

--Robin Williams



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