

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Tubing on the Ichetucknee *Outdoor Fun*

Take part in a unique Gainesville summertime tradition!! Float down the beautiful, crystal clear water of the Ichetucknee River while you relax in an inner tube. Enjoy the Florida sunshine, the cool water and the company of your ELI family!!

When: Saturday, May 21st. Meet at NRN Garage 10:30am. Each car will decide its own return time, probably around 3:00pm. Sign up on the activities board by 4pm, Thursday, May 19th.

Cost: The entrance fee is \$6.00 for each car. Also bring about \$5 to rent an inner tube.

What to Bring: Bring lunch, your bathing suit, and sunscreen. Also, if you have a camera or electronics such as a phone you don't want to get wet, it's a good idea to have them in a Ziploc bag.

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.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going on our first **Volunteer Day** of the semester. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Ramadan

Here's a note from our Assistant Director, Patti Moon, regarding Ramadan and absences:

To our practicing Muslim students:

Welcome to the Summer 2011 term! Summer is a great time to be in Gainesville and North Florida because there are so many wonderful activities that can be done outdoors. This summer, Ramadan falls at the end of our term during the last two weeks of classes and during finals. Because Ramadan is such a lengthy period and special accommodations cannot be made for exams and absences, please keep in mind the importance of working extra hard this term: studying hard and saving all your absences. By doing so, you will have strong grades, and will have learned

everything well, so that the end of the term will be easy for you. This will help you in case you feel tired at the beginning of the fasting period.

Please remember that we continue to track your attendance through August 10, 2011. All non-probationary students are permitted a maximum of 36 hours of absences regardless of the reason (this includes leaving early, hospital visits, or religious holidays).

Students cannot leave early for Ramadan only. If there is an emergency and you must leave early, the last day to see me is July 11, 2011.

Study hard and be diligent. The end of the term will then be easy for you!

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from May 27-June 2:

Students:
May 27: Muhaysen Alotaibi
May 28: Jaber Alshehri

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:

Angola	Korea
Benin	Kuwait
Bolivia	Libya
Brazil	Nigeria
Canada	Qatar
Chile	Saudi Arabia
China	Taiwan
Colombia	Turkey
Ecuador	UAE
Honduras	United States
Iraq	Venezuela
Japan	

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.

Grammar

Q: I ask, "Are you at the lab?" and my student replies, "Sure." He means yes, or of course, but it doesn't really make sense. I've had other students make this same mistake.

How do I explain the difference between 'yes' and 'sure'?

A: "Sure" only means "yes" when you're accepting an invitation or agreeing to or giving an opinion. It doesn't mean "yes" when it's simple factual information. For example, if the question were, "Would you like to go to the movies with me?" or "Do you like pizza?" then, "Sure" would be perfectly acceptable

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 English Language Institute
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
Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu