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The ELI Weekly

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the English Language Institute
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Pool Party!

Come out and have some fun!

Join us for a fun day at the pool! It's a good opportunity to make new friends, relax with old friends and of course, to cool off!

Where: Greenwich Greens Apartments on SW 39th Blvd. (Ride Bus 12 or Bus 62). Meet at Norman Garage at 12:30 p.m. if you would like a ride to the Pool Party and remember to sign up on the activities board!

When: Saturday, September 17th, 1-5 p.m.

Cost: Free!

What to Bring: A bathing suit, a towel, sunscreen, and friends!

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **Important documents:** Don't forget; we must have your health history forms, proof of your immunizations, and proof of insurance for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is **Wednesday, September 14th**. 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!

- **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 presented in the Volunteer Seminar, and also will be on the Activities Board and in the next *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from September 16-22:

Students:

September 16: Miguel Castro
September 16: Estibaliz Iza Morales
September 20: Michelle Guimaraes
September 21: Maha Alghofaily
September 21: Abdulaziz Alquohi
September 22: Salwa Bazaid

Staff:

None this week!

Don't forget to say happy birthday to your classmates!

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
Burkina Faso	Pakistan
Canada	Qatar
Central African Republic	Saudi Arabia
Chile	Senegal
China	Taiwan
Colombia	Thailand
Costa Rica	Turkey
Dominican Republic	U.A.E.
Ecuador	United States
Israel	Venezuela
Japan	Vietnam

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: 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 13th. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium,

Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

Grammar

Q: When do you use an apostrophe and when do you use "of the" for possessive?

A: The apostrophe is generally used for animate possessors (the cat's paw) while "of" is used for inanimate possessors (the leg of the chair). Don't confuse these with noun adjuncts, which are when a noun modifies another noun (flower garden vs. rock garden).

Apostrophe: Rachel's car is getting fixed.
Wrong: The car of Rachel is getting fixed.

"Of": There is a big scratch on the side of the car.
Wrong: There is a big scratch on the car's side.

Noun adjunct: The car stereo is broken.
Wrong: The car's stereo is broken.
Wrong: The stereo of the car is broken.

Quote of the Week

Success is a ladder you cannot climb with your hands in your pockets.

— American Proverb



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