

## Highlights

- Volunteer Day
- Crossing the Road

- Birthdays
- Manners

# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Volunteer Day

*Help others while helping yourself!*

This Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**Keep Alachua County Beautiful Gator Plunge:** Work on various projects around the UF campus. Meet at the Plaza of the Americas in front of Library West at 8:15am.

**Emeritus:** Interact with elderly residents, play games, and practice your English. Great fun for the whole family! Meet at the Norman Garage at

9:30am. We will return around 12:00pm.

**Alachua County Humane Society:** Help organize the thrift store. Have fun with your friends and language assistants! Meet at the Norman Garage at 10:15am. We will return around 1:00pm.

**Project Downtown Gainesville--** Help serve lunch to the homeless and interact with English speakers from different cultures. We will meet at the Norman Garage at 12:30pm and return around 3:00pm.

**North Florida Rehab Center:** Play Bingo with elderly residents and practice your English at the same time! Meet at Norman Garage at 1:15pm. We will return around 4:00pm.

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

### 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.

### Crossing the Road

I've seen a few ELI students cross the roads at dangerous times. Please be very careful when crossing the road. According to the University Police Department, about 3 crashes a week involve a pedestrian. Always cross at the crosswalk and only when the light is green for you to walk and make sure to look both ways!!

### Note from Daryl

Remember! If you would like to make an appointment to speak with Daryl, he will only be available Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays this term. Tuesday and Thursday he will be helping new students before they arrive.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Paynes Prairie**. 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 7:00pm	Pool and Bowling (Scott)	Meet in the Reitz Union Game Room on the Ground Floor. Bring \$5-\$10 for games
Tuesday 7:00pm	Soccer and Frisbee (Alex)	Meet at Flavet Field. Free
Wednesday 7:00pm	Coffee Talk (James)	Meet at 7 p.m. at Starbucks on Archer Road.. Free (Bring money for coffee and food if you like.)
Thursday 7:00pm	Lollicup and Karaoke (Becky)	Meet at Lollicup at 34 <sup>th</sup> St. A few dollars.
Friday 6:00pm	Volleyball (Chris)	Meet at Lexington Crossing. Free

## Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 23-29:

Students:

September 24: Jose Delgado Escalona

September 25: Muhammad Waqas

September 27: Ruqayyah Althubyani

September 27: Ji Yeon An

September 28: Douglas Blanco Velasquez

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: 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. Say, "Could you please pass ...?"
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. 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.

*Q: Why do Americans sit on the tables where they eat?*

A: It's just not something that we really think about. It's never really been something that we have had as a strong prohibition in our culture.

## 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."

*Q: If "plan" doubles the "n" in the past tense, why doesn't "open"?*

A: Actually, you've found one crazy spelling point in English that does have a pattern. In verbs of more than one syllable, we only double that last consonant when the stress falls on the last syllable. In "open" the stress falls on the "o".

## Quote of the Week

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

--Robin Williams

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