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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Wish Upon a Star

The Disney Trip!

This Saturday, February 16th, we are headed to the **Walt Disney World** resort in Orlando!

Come and experience the magic of Disney. You can choose to go to **ONE** of the theme parks, either the Magic Kingdom or Epcot. You can also go to Disney's Hollywood Studios or Disney's Animal Kingdom, but they close **MUCH** earlier than the other parks, so you would need to wait a long time for the van.

WHEN: *Saturday, February 16th at 7:30 AM* at the TRiP Office. The Magic Kingdom closes at 10pm and Epcot closes at 9pm. We will meet back at the van at 10pm and we may return to Gainesville as late as 12midnight. We will go even if it is raining.

COST: Entrance to each of the Walt Disney World theme parks is \$75.62. You should also plan to take about \$20 for food and money for souvenirs.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we're going **Rock Climbing!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Notes from the Office

- **Student Mail**—There is quite a bit of mail in the student mailbox. It's the black tray immediately to the right of the door to the ELI Main Office, Room 315. Be sure to check from time to time to see if you have anything in!
- **Lost and found**—If you are missing any items, or if you find anything in the classroom that obviously belongs to someone, we do keep a lost and found box in the Main 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. At this point in the semester, it might be a very good idea for you to check with your teachers and make sure that your absences aren't becoming a problem.

Use of English at the ELI

It has come to our attention lately that a lot of students aren't aware that the use of English in and around the ELI is something that is required, not just suggested.

Here is the exact text from the application to the ELI that appears right above the signature:

"I am aware of the importance of using English in all ELI-related activities. I pledge that I will use English exclusively in all activities involving the ELI."

And, here is the text from the ELI Student Manual:

"ELI Students are expected to speak only English in the ELI and at ELI Activities."

Of course, since we have many students who have shared native languages, we know it's a real temptation to use them. However, it's not much help to you in learning English, and it will actually slow down your progress! So, we'd just like to make an extra reminder to everyone that when you're at the ELI, you mustn't use anything but English.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 15-21:

Students:
February 19: Garam Noh

Staff:
Happy belated birthday to Jon
McCahill—February 11th!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the difference between the iBT and the paper TOEFL?

A: Paper TOEFL has three sections: Listening, Structure, and Reading. The Listening section is very academic and artificial, and it does not allow for note taking. Also, the ELI Institutional paper TOEFL does not have any writing.

The iBT, on the other hand, is more authentic in its English use requirements. It does not have a Structure section at all. Instead, students must demonstrate proficiency in Reading, Writing, Listening AND Speaking. Also, there is a test of integrated skills—students must listen and read, and then write about the two together.

Q: Are the ELI scholarships given for high scores or high efficiency?

A: Both. Students who are nominated for the scholarship by their

teachers are nominated in the following criteria:

Academic Excellence: The student should have a GPA of 3.75 or higher and demonstrate a high level of proficiency in at least three of the four skill areas.

Outstanding Progress: The student should display outstanding progress in language skills as evidenced by improvements in coursework and/or CELT scores.

Excellent Attendance: The student should miss no more than ten hours of class in the semester. On this one, it's pretty rare for a successful nominee to have more than two or three hours of absence for the entire semester.

Successful Work Strategies: The student should demonstrate personal initiative in and out of the classroom, making an effort to get involved in the ambient culture.

That final one does definitely include as much participation in activities and volunteering as possible. Also, students who speak languages other than English in the hallways of Norman Hall and at ELI activities are not generally considered to be scholarship material.

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between “have to”, “must”, “ought to”, “should”, and “had better”?

A: Degree of necessity or consequences. “Should” and “ought to” both mean that someone is making a suggestion but not stating a requirement—it implies that the receiver has a choice. They are of equal strength—but only “should” is used in negatives and questions, generally. “Must” and “have to” both mean that there is no choice in the matter—it's an absolute requirement. For this requirement, only “must” can be used in the negative—“don't have to” just means that there is no requirement. “Had better” means the same thing as “should” and “ought to”, except that there is an implied consequence for not following the advice—it's more of a warning.

Quote of the Week

Our lives improve only when we take chances - and the first and most difficult risk we can take is to be honest with ourselves.

--Walter Anderson

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