

# 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, September 19<sup>th</sup>. 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, September 17<sup>th</sup>. If it is raining on Saturday, call 273-4385 to see if the trip has been cancelled.

**Cost:** The entrance fee is \$5.00 for each car. Also bring about \$5 to rent an inner tube.

**What to Bring:** Bring lunch, your bathing suit, and sunscreen.

Have a great day, everyone!

### Notes from the Office

➤ **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 Fall Semester. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

### Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from September 18-24:

Students:  
September 20: Raeun Kim

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:

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Benin          | Mexico        |
| Bolivia        | Panama        |
| Brazil         | Qatar         |
| Burkina Faso   | Saudi Arabia  |
| China          | Spain         |
| Colombia       | Sri Lanka     |
| Dominican Rep. | Taiwan        |
| Germany        | Thailand      |
| Iraq           | Turkey        |
| Japan          | UAE           |
| Kuwait         | United States |
| Mali           | Venezuela     |

### 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 13<sup>th</sup>. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

## Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

## 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

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