

Highlights

- Paintball
- Birthdays
- T-Shirts
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 113, Issue 3
September 17, 2010*



Paintball!

Come out and have some fun!

This Saturday, September 18th, we are going to play **Paintball!**

Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, September 18th. Meet at the Norman garage at 11:30am. We will return around 5pm.

Cost: The cost is \$20 for equipment and 200 paintballs. You may purchase equipment and 500 paintballs for \$35.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday, October 1st at 4pm.

So come and play!

Notes from the Office

- **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.

ELI T-Shirts

Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Judith in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

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 for the week of September 17-23:

Students:
September 21: Valentina Estebanes
September 21: Youssif Makhzoum
September 21: Andrea Rey

Staff:
None this week!
Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why doesn't UF have more parking lots?

A: No place to put them. This is not just a problem at UF—it's a difficult choice for many universities around the country. Some people suggest that we should put garages where there are now lots, but that isn't a good solution, either. The roads and the existing infrastructure can't sustain that many cars entering and discharging from a single location. This is one of the reasons that Gainesville has a much larger bus system than most cities this size in the US and why UF and Santa Fe fund a large portion of the bus system's operating budget. Which leads us to the next question...

Q: Why is there so little public transportation on the weekends in Gainesville?

A: Actually, buses running on the weekends in Gainesville at all is relatively new—less than 10 years. The fact of the matter is, not many people actually use the buses on weekends, and when they do, they aren't moving in a common direction

as they are during the week. So, there isn't a cost justification for running many routes and buses on weekends.

Q: Why do Americans eat a lot of hamburgers?

A: Speed, simplicity, and cost.

Q: Are there class distinctions in American society?

A: Sure. They're based mainly on socioeconomic status, though, and not by birth. Money does stratify us, but we also have a very, very large middle class.

Q: What is the meaning of the Thanksgiving Holiday?

A: Just what the name says, basically. It's a day that we set aside to express our appreciation for all the people in our lives and all the things that we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving

is the universal family holiday in the US, as it doesn't have specific ties to any one particular religion or belief system.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between hear and listen?

A: Whether or not the action is on purpose or intended. You hear something whether you want to or not—the sound reaches your ear and enters your brain. You listen to something because you want to.

Q: Do I need a comma before a FANBOYS conjunction in all cases?

A: No, just in the case of a compound sentence or in a series of 3 or more items.

Q: Why don't Americans pronounce the words the way they are written?

A: It's not just Americans—it's all English speakers. Partly, we can blame the French—the words that came to us from French have the most silent letters. However, in general, the answer to your question lies in the fact that English is a combination of several different language groups, each with its own sound system and spelling system. Couple that with the fact that there was NO standardized spelling in English at all until well into the 19th Century, and we find lots of reasons for the crazy spelling and pronunciation that we have today.

Quote of the Week

I'd rather be a failure at something I love than a success at something I hate.

--George Burns

UF 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