

Highlights

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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 25th, 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 23rd.

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

Alachua Animals—Come walk, bathe, and play with cats and dogs at Alachua Animal Service Meet at the Norman Garage at 10am. We will return around 1pm.

Emeritus— Come and serve ice cream, bowl, and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time! We will meet at the Cabana

Beach rental office at 2pm and return around 5:30pm.

Angel Food Ministries— Come assist in collecting, packaging and distributing food for homeless shelters.. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am, and we will return around 10:30am.

Project Downtown Gainesville-- Help serve lunch to homeless people alongside other UF students. We will meet at the Norman Garage at 12:30pm and return around 2:30pm.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Ximena 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.

NO SMOKING!

Remember, everyone! Absolutely no smoking is allowed on the UF campus. This includes ALL areas inside AND outside buildings. Please remember that it is also illegal to trespass on private property around the building to smoke. This includes the houses and apartments across the streets from Norman Hall. If you have questions about where it might be appropriate to smoke, please see your Language Assistants.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*. Also, if you would like to go on this trip, transportation passes will be available for \$20 (exact cash only) this Thursday, September 23rd from 9:30am to 1:30pm in the CIP office, Room 318.

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 7:00 PM	Pool and Bowling (Jessica and Kristen)	Meet at the Reitz Union Games Room Bring your Gator 1 ID Bring \$5-10 if you want to play pool or bowl.
Tuesday 7:00PM	Soccer (Clay)	Meet at NRN Field Free
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Coffee Talk (Caitlin and Thomas)	Ben and Jerry's on Archer Rd. Free (Bring money for coffee and food if you like.)
Thursday 8:00 PM	Mochi at Midtown (Cassie and Erika)	Meet at Mochi on University Ave A few \$\$
Friday 5:45 PM	Gator Nights (Raquel)	Meet at the Reitz Union Information Desk. Free; Bring UF ID

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of September 24-30:

Students:

September 25: Carmen Mata
Guzman

September 27: Mishari Garcia Roca

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: Oh, goodness, there are entire etiquette books with half of their chapters dedicated to mealtime etiquette! 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. Ask that it be passed to you.
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. In fact, to do so extensively is considered bad form—especially if it's just because you don't like a certain food. 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

UF English Language Institute
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