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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Halloween Party!

Come out and be scary

The ELI invites you to come to our **Halloween Costume Party!!!** Show off your costume to your friends at the ELI. There will be food, music, a pumpkin carving contest, and a prize for the best costume!

When: The Halloween party will be from 8:00pm to 11:00 pm on Saturday, October 30th, the night before Halloween.

Where: The Enclave at 3000 SW 35th Place Gainesville, FL 32606. The website is: www.enclaveuf.com/

Cost: The party is totally free, but we hope everyone who attends will bring a spooky snack for everyone to enjoy whether it's chips, cookies, brownies, cupcakes, or something from your country.

What to Bring: Remember to wear a Halloween costume!!! **There will be a contest and a prize for the best costume!** If you want to participate in a pumpkin carving contest, bring a pumpkin.

So come enjoy one of America's spookiest and enjoyable holidays! We can't promise you'll ever be the same again.

Notes from the Office

- **Holidays and RTS Bus Service--** Students, remember there is no campus service:
 - November 11 (Thursday, Veterans' Day)
 - November 25 and 26 (Thursday/Friday, Thanksgiving Holiday)
 - December 20-January 2, 2010-11 (Christmas Break)

These changes can be accessed on the RTS website www.go-rtts.com

You can also sign up on the RTS website to have alerts sent to your email for any route changes, additions or cancellations.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will holding our second **Volunteer Day** of the Fall Semester. Details about the activity will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*, as well as in the B-Term Volunteer Seminar.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of October 29-November 4:

- Students:
- October 29: Victoria Benitez Herrera
 - October 30: Abdulrahman Aldossary
 - November 1: Junghyun Kwon
 - November 3: Rawan Alkhalaf

- Staff:
- October 30: Fiona Lama
 - November 3: Marpessa Rietberger

B-Term Countries

The following are countries and places represented by our new B-Term students:

Brazil	Oman
China	Paraguay
Germany	Qatar
Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Italy	Taiwan
Korea	Turkey
Kuwait	UAE
Libya	Venezuela

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the most important holiday in the US?

A: Well, that's a tough question, mainly because there are so many holidays that hold special meanings to so many people. It would be fair to say, though, that our biggest family holiday, the one that has the most people celebrating it and going to visit their families and their friends, is Thanksgiving. It's a big feast day that isn't specially linked to any one religion or set of beliefs. It really shows in the travel industry—the week of Thanksgiving is always our busiest travel period of the year.

Q: Why can't we talk about politics and religion in a public setting? I think it prevents forming sound public opinion.

A: We can. There's a big difference, though, between a *public* setting and a *social* setting. This is a very diverse country with a huge number of religious and political beliefs—some very passionate. Culturally, we have an understanding that in social settings, especially more formal ones in which the people don't know each other well, that we don't tend to talk about things that might provoke loud disagreement and hurt feelings. This is not to say, however, that we never talk about these things at all. When people have less social distance and

they know each other well, there may be some pretty spirited political discussion. And, in settings where there is a clear understanding that it's appropriate, such as at church, mosque, temple, or similar venues, there can be a great deal of discussion about religion.

For folks like ELI students, who are trying to feel their way through the culture from a fresh perspective, there is also the social convention of asking if it's okay. That is, saying something like, "Do you mind if I ask you about your opinion of..." When you do this, however, it is considered very rude to a) express strong disagreement with whatever the person answers, and b) to become visibly hurt or upset if they choose not to discuss it at all.

Q: What can I say to my teammates at the end of a game to encourage them for the next game?

A: It depends on whether or not you won, really. If you did, then something like, "Good game! Let's keep it up!" would be appropriate. If you didn't, then I would say something like, "We'll get 'em next time!"

Grammar

Q: How do you know when to use 'what' or 'that'. For example: I don't know what to do, or I don't know that to do. In my language, we use the same word for 'what' and 'that'.

A: Oh, good one! In this case, it's a question of whether you are talking about "the thing" (what) or "the fact" (that). In the example that you gave, you don't know the thing to do—you can't really "do" a fact. So, you should use "what" to express it. On the other hand, if you say, "I didn't know that you were such a good dancer," you are saying that this is a fact which is new to you. So, you use "that" to express it.

Q: What's the difference between slang and idiom?

A: Probably formality and degree of permanence more than anything else. Slang tends to refer to expressions and constructions that are either fairly new to the language or that are used only in the most informal of language.

Quote of the Week

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

--Dale Carnegie