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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Paynes Prairie

Come out and see some wildlife!

Paynes Prairie is a 21,000 acre preserve about 15 minutes south of the University of Florida. It is covered by fields, wet prairie, pine flat-woods and oak hammocks. If we're lucky, we might see Florida wildlife such as bison, wild horses, alligators, otters, osprey and even bald eagles! This is a great way to get to enjoy the "real" Florida!

When: Saturday, September 29th. Meet at the Norman Garage at 12:30pm. We will return to Gainesville around 4:00pm.

Cost: The cost is \$2 cash per person. Bring some money for lunch in case we get something to eat afterwards.

What to Bring: A backpack with water, sunglasses, sunscreen, and your camera. Wear comfortable shoes!

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday, September 27th at 4:00pm.

The Next Trip

On Saturday, September 29th, we will be hosting the **Football Party**. More details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Immunizations & Insurance

All of our students are required to have certain immunizations and adequate health insurance in order to attend class. We do this because UF requires it and because we care about you and don't want you to infect each other with tuberculosis or get sick and not have insurance. Unfortunately, every semester there are some students who don't bring us their immunization records, don't have immunization records at all, or forget to enroll or re-enroll in health insurance. If you received a green note from Lillian, you are one of these students. Please carefully read the green notes, and if you don't understand, please see Lillian in Norman 316 immediately. **If you have to miss class because of an issue with immunizations or insurance, it counts as an absence.**

ELI Places of Origin

The following is a list of the many places of origin of our students:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Angola | Kazakhstan |
| Argentina | Korea |
| Bolivia | Kuwait |
| Brazil | Nicaragua |
| Burkina Faso | Panama |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Chile | Qatar |
| China | Russia |
| Colombia | Saudi Arabia |
| Dominican Republic | Syria |
| Ecuador | Taiwan |
| France | Thailand |
| India | Turkey |
| Iran | United States |
| Iraq | Venezuela |
| Japan | |

Birthdays

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

Students:
September 24: Seokwon Lee
September 25: Turki Zamil
September 25: Eugenis Bermudez
September 27: Devora Canedo Garcia
September 27: Ruqayyah Althubyan
September 27: Alfredo Ochoa
September 30: Gianni Agrapidaki Saccal

Staff:
September 30: Alexis Johnson

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

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

A: 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 exiting 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: The fact of the matter is, not many people actually use the buses on the weekends, and when they do, they aren't moving in a common direction as they are during the week. As a result, RTS can't justify having many routes and buses on weekends.

Grammar

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

A: 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.

- I heard the baby cry while I was listening to music.
- I can hear my neighbor upstairs even with the TV on.

Q: What's the difference between speak and talk? Can I say "I talk English"?

There are two main differences. The first is the formality. *Speak* is more academic than *talk*. Look at the two examples below. Which one would you use with your friend and which one would you use with your professor?

- Could I speak with you?
- Let's talk.

The other difference is that *talk* can't have a direct object but *speak* can. This means your sentence is incorrect. They can both take indirect objects.

Correct: I speak English.

Incorrect: I talk English.

Correct: I spoke with my professor.

Correct: I talked with my professor.

Q: I think my English is not improving. Is there a secret to get better fast?

The number one thing is to speak English. This is why your teachers make you speak, read, write, and listen to English in every single class. This is why we scold you when you speak something other than English. We know that using it is the best way to improve. Speak it, use new vocabulary and grammar, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and try again. Make a pact with your friends to only speak English. Find friends of other nationalities. Do whatever you need to do to use only English but basically speak, read, write, and live English all the time.

Quote of the Week

I write differently from what I speak, I speak differently from what I think, I think differently from the way I ought to think, and so it all proceeds into deepest darkness.

Franz Kafka