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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Thanksgiving Dinner

*Join us for a holiday meal!*

On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding **The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual ELI International Thanksgiving Potluck!** This is a great opportunity to celebrate an important holiday in the US by joining with your ELI family to give thanks and enjoy some wonderful food!

**What:** Thanksgiving in the US is a time to gather with friends and family to give thanks for all the good things in our lives, enjoy each other's company, and eat delicious food. The ELI has been celebrating Thanksgiving with its students since 1994 and as an international potluck since 2002. ELI staff, teachers, administrators, and LAs will bring traditional Thanksgiving Day food like *turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, pumpkin pie,* and more!

**When:** November 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 10:00pm

**Where:** Broward Basement across from the Broward Recreation Complex

**What to Bring:** Please bring a traditional food from your own country to share. You should bring enough to feed 5 to 10 people and a serving utensil for your dish. We will provide plates, napkins, knives, forks, spoons, cups, and drinks. We will also provide notecards so you can write your name, your country, the name of your dish, and the major ingredients of your dish. For example, you might write:

*Megan Forbes*  
*US*  
*Mashed Potatoes*  
*(Potatoes, Milk, Butter)*

All students, teachers, language assistants, staff, and administrators who would like to go should sign up on the Activities Board by Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Please write what type of food you will bring and the number of guests.

## The Next Trip

On Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be holding our **End of Semester Barbecue.** Details will be on the Activities Board and in the last issue of *The ELI Weekly.*

## Feeling sad?

Many students feel sad about the holidays and this affects attendance and performance in class. If you feel sad, talk to someone: a friend, an LA, a teacher, or an administrator. If you don't feel comfortable talking to someone at the ELI, you can also visit the UF Counseling and Wellness Center. They offer free services and it's completely confidential. You just need an appointment and Lillian can help you make one.

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

## Traveling

If you do not have any plans for Thanksgiving Break yet, we have some suggestions for you!

**In Gainesville:** If you're staying in Gainesville, there are lots of things to do! If you like museums, there are the Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History, both located on campus. If you like nature, check out the Devil's Millhopper State Geological Site and Kanapaha Botanical Gardens. And if you like bicycling, there is the Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail—15 miles of paved cycling trail that winds through Paynes Prairie and beyond. Also, you can try the Depot Avenue/Waldo Road trail system. Also, Paynes Prairie itself has some really nice walking paths worth checking out. Remember to take water and a camera!

**Close to Gainesville:** Miami and Atlanta are each about 6 hours away, Orlando and Tampa are about 2 hours away, and lots of other places are even closer. There are plenty of things to do at each of cities! If you don't have a car, you can check out the bus companies below.

[us.megabus.com](http://us.megabus.com)  
[greyhound.com](http://greyhound.com)  
[redcoachusa.com](http://redcoachusa.com)

**Travel outside the US:** If you're traveling outside the US, even if just to Mexico or Canada, remember that you must have Daryl sign your I-20 so that you can get back into the country.

If you're traveling and will miss any classes on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving or the Monday after, these will count toward total absences.

## Notes from the Office

**ELI Talent Show:** The ELI Talent Show is two weeks away (on November 27<sup>th</sup>) so get together with your group and practice, practice, practice! If you're interested in participating, there's still space. Talk to Daryl about it and don't forget the sponsor!

### Attendance and End of Term Feedback:

Please remember how important it is to attend all your classes even as the term winds down. Take advantage of the remaining time you have here at the ELI to practice and study English! We will also soon be asking for your feedback on our classes, so please be sure to be there every day.

**Financial Issues:** Remember, Judith Strack will be out from November 14<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you need help after she leaves, you can make an appointment with Karen Owens.

**Thanksgiving Holiday:** Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> is Thanksgiving. There will be no ELI classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. **Classes will meet as normal on Monday and Tuesday.**

**Holidays and RTS Bus Service:** There is reduced or no campus service on these days: November 21, 22, and 23 (Thanksgiving Holiday, Wednesday thru Friday) December 17-January 1, 2012-2013 (End-of-year Break)

These changes can be accessed on the RTS website [www.go-rt.com](http://www.go-rt.com)

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from November 12 to November 18:

Students:

November 12: Shujui Hsu  
November 12: Fabiana Campos Mardelli  
November 12: Ahmad Alrashed  
November 16: Ahmed Aloraini  
November 16: Nayong Baek  
November 16: Wendy Chamoo Zambrano

Staff:

November 13: Robert Roberg

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why don't American students dress up for class?*

A: Some of the UF students that you see live on campus, so they roll out of bed and go to class in their pajamas. Most students don't have money to spend on fancy clothing. But the biggest reason is probably because we are more laid back than other cultures, especially in a university setting like UF in a climate like Florida.

*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 "must" and "should"?*

A: There are actually lots of uses for both words, but the most common use for both of them is to talk about obligation. "Must" means that there is no choice—it's an absolute obligation. "Should" means that the action is advisable, but there is a choice.

- You **must** come to class to keep your visa.
- You **should** make American friends to improve your English.

*Q: What's the difference between "under" and "underneath"?*

A: There's not a large difference; in most cases, they're probably interchangeable. The biggest difference is that "underneath" connotes an idea that something is under something else and is hidden or not readily visible.

- The cat is under the table. [It's visible.]
- The cat is underneath the couch. [It isn't visible.]

*Q: What's the difference between "advise" and "advice"?*

A: The first one's a verb and the second one's a noun. The pronunciation of the "s" is [z] and the pronunciation of the "c" is [s].

- I **advise** you to go to class every day.
- My **advice** is that you go to class every day.

## Quote of the Week

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.

W.T. Purkiser



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