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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 107, Issue 6
February 13, 2009*



Valentine's Day Party

Share the holiday with us!

This Friday, February 13th, the ELI is holding a Valentine's Day Masquerade Party!

Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14 by many people throughout the world. In the West, it is the traditional day on which friends and loved ones express their affection for each other by sending Valentine's Day cards and presenting flowers.

The ELI will be hosting a Valentine's Day Party to celebrate this holiday. It will be a **masquerade**, which means people attending may wear a mask and may wear red or black.

When: Friday, February 13th from 8:00pm to 11:00pm

Where: Megan Chandler's (LA) house. Map and Directions will be provided

What to bring: Please bring a snack to share.

Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break and I-20s** Spring Break is only a few weeks away!

If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada or Mexico—please remember to come to the office to have your I-20 signed so that you won't have trouble getting back into the country!

- **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 Sonja in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, there will be no scheduled activity so that you may prepare for any midterm examinations that you may have. Our next activity, the following weekend, will be Canoeing on the Santa Fe River. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in that week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 13-19:

Students:

February 15: Hsiu Yu Fang

February 19: Ida Rapademnaba

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Is it disgusting for Americans to eat by hand?

A: Depends on the food. Basically, we have a good number of foods that are considered "finger foods". Anything that resembles a sandwich (stuff between pieces of bread), breads, cheeses, raw vegetables and fruits, crackers, cookies, fries, or chips are certainly finger foods. Also, fried chicken is usually eaten with the fingers, particularly in the South. Most people here, though, eat most foods that are wet or excessively oily with some kind of utensil.

Q: What should we call our teachers? Is it common to use the first name?

A: Here at the ELI, definitely. In college courses in general, it's fine to use first names if the professor wants you to. Otherwise, we use "Doctor"

plus the last name if we know that the person has a doctoral degree. Otherwise, we can use “Professor” plus the last name, or even “Mr.” or “Ms” plus the last name unless we are told otherwise. One thing that is not acceptable is to call your teachers, “Teacher”. That’s something in this culture that we only do when we are small children.

Q: When someone invites you to an American house what is the best way to be polite with the hosts?

A: By showing up on time. Also, you may bring a small gift, such as

chocolate, flowers, or (if you know your hosts drink) wine. This part is not required, however. It’s appreciated, but not expected.

Grammar

Q: How can I understand phrasal verbs?

A: The same way you learn and understand any vocabulary. There’s no magic formula for phrasal verbs—each instance of a phrasal verb creates what is essentially a completely new vocabulary word with its own definition and usage. You can learn

them by watching and listening for them, writing them down, practicing with them, and noting their context, just like any other vocabulary.

Quote of the Week

Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the first suffering, how we can turn it into good. So shall we take occasion, from one bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers.

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