

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Hoggetowne Medieval Faire *Journey back to Europe's Middle Ages!*

This Saturday, February 6th, we will be going here in Gainesville to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire!**

The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire is a festival where people remember and celebrate the **medieval times**. Step back in time, cheer on **royal knights** as they joust on horseback and charge head-on at a full gallop with only a lance and shield to defend themselves. Watch a chess game played out with **human chess pieces** on the Living Chessboard! Laugh along with **jugglers, magicians** and a colorful cast of characters! There will be plenty of **great food and fun**. This is a wonderful place to bring your family and children.

WHEN: Saturday, February 6th. We will meet at Norman Garage at 11:30am. We will probably return around 3-4pm depending on what time your car leaves. This is a carpool trip so you must sign up on the activities board by 4:00pm Thursday, February 4th.

COST: Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5-17 and free for children 4 and younger. Bring money for food. You should also bring some spending money if you would like to buy gifts and souvenirs!

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **ELI T-Shirts**-Don't forget, we have the ELI T-Shirts for sale in the ELI main office, \$10 each, sizes S, M, L, X-L, 2X, cash only, exact change, sold from 8:30am-1:30pm.
- **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. Don't forget that 3 tardies equals one absence.
- **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. Also, if you had your official TOEFL scores sent here to the ELI, they are in the box now.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to Orlando for **Outlet Mall Shopping!** This is a van trip. **Transportation:** PLEASE reserve your spot on a van

by signing up and paying \$20 in the CIP Office on Wednesday, February 3 between 9:20-1:30. (Cash only, exact change, non-refundable.) Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

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 6:30 PM	Game Night (pool, bowling, board games) (Clay)	Meet at the Reitz Union Games Room Bring your Gator 1 ID Board games are free. Bring \$5-10 if you want to bowl.
Tuesday 6:00 PM	Soccer (Alexandria/ Jeremy)	Meet at NRN Field Free
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Coffee Talk (Adam)	Starbuck's on Archer Rd. Free (Bring money for coffee and food if you like.)

Thursday 600 PM	Volleyball (Lindsey)	Meet at the volleyball courts by the SW Rec Center. Free.
Friday Varies. Check the ELI Website on Wednesday.	Movie Night (Raquel)	Varies.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 5-11:

Students:

February 5: Ramón Padilla

February 9: Jin Chun

February 9: Mohammed Ejbarah

Staff:

Missed one in last week's issue!

February 4: Scott Challgren

Manners and Culture

Q: Some of my classmates don't use deodorant and the classroom smells strong sometimes. Is it okay if I tell them?

A: No, but it's okay if I do here. Folks, this is always something of a problem for us, given the multicultural nature of the ELI and the fact that deodorant use isn't common in some countries, while it's very common or even basically socially required in others. Here in the US, we do have people who actively protest and get quite angry when people indicate that they might benefit from the use of deodorant,

but even a great majority of us do use it, too. If you come from a culture that doesn't use it, please be aware that you probably smell pretty strong to your classmates and maybe even some of your teachers. If you are aware and you don't want to do anything about it, that's your right, of course, but people are probably talking about it. Now, with all that having been said, I would also tell you that if you have a very, very good friend who might come from a non-deodorant culture and who has a very strong aroma, and you think that people are in fact talking about them without their knowledge, then it's probably okay to go ahead *in extreme private* to let them know.

Q: Why are the teachers really strict with punctuality?

A: Well, first and foremost, they are all required by official ELI policy to be strict with both punctuality and attendance. Also, it's a very strong cultural point of view for us. To Americans, it's rude and arrogant to be late—it indicates that you think that your own time is more valuable than everyone else's. In the classroom in particular, it's difficult to get things going for all the students if all the students aren't there.

Grammar

Q: When do you use "if" or "whether" in sentences? Which sentence is correct? "I don't know if he is coming" or "I don't know whether he is coming"?

A: Both are correct, actually. This choice occurs when you are using "if" or "whether" at the beginning of a noun clause to indicate that a choice or possibility exists. When the noun clause is the object of the verb, as in your example, you may use either one. When the noun clause is the subject, however, you cannot use "if". You can only use "whether". Like this: "Whether you come to the party or not is totally your choice." In this sentence, you can't use "if".

Q: In other languages, if I list some words, before the last word I need to put "and" and finally the last word of the list. In English I usually read "comma", the conjunction "and", and finally the last word of the list. In what cases we need to put "and" or "comma+ and"? What is the rule for this punctuation?

A: Oh, my, what a great question. You've actually hit on a point on which there is often some contentious disagreement among native speakers of English. This is not what we call a question of grammar, but rather it is a question of style. When we do formal writing, usually we are required to use a style manual. The two most common style manuals in the US and Britain respectively, the APA manual and the Oxford manual, both ask for the serial comma. When in doubt, use it.

Quote of the Week

If you want your life to be more rewarding, you have to change the way you think.

--Oprah Winfrey

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