

Highlights

- Volunteer Day
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 117, Issue 2
January 23, 2012



Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, January 28th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet and head to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 26th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

Habitat for Humanity: Help build at Santa Fe College! Meet at the Norman Garage at 8:15am.

13th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup: Gather "air potatoes" and enjoy food and music! Meet at the Norman Garage at 8:30am.

Alachua County Humane Society: Help organize the thrift store and practice your English with LAs and new friends! Meet at the Norman Garage at 9:30am.

Hoggetowne Medieval Faire: Help staff with ticket distribution and experience a new culture! Meet at the Norman Garage at 12:15pm.

Emeritus: Interact with elderly residents, play Wii games, and practice your English. Great fun for the whole family! Meet at the Norman Garage at 1:45pm.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Raquel in the CIP Office, Room 318.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Leisure Classes

Students, are you interested in learning other skills and practicing your English at the same time? Sign up for leisure courses at UF. You can learn how to play guitar, learn how to make ceramics, learn how to use that camera you bought before you came and many more things. Most courses are \$15 for students and run from January 23rd to March 22nd once a week. Check out the link below which is also on the ELI Facebook page.

<https://www.union.ufl.edu/ProgramsArtsLeisure/LeisureCourses?>

Notes from the Office

Feeling Sick? If you get sick, you should send your teachers an email from home or talk to them when you get back. If you are going to be out for 3 or more days, please call the office and let us know.

Student Mailbox: Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you will not need to ask in the office.

Lost and Found: If you lose personal items in Norman Hall, be sure to check in the ELI Main Office. If you lose personal items in other buildings, check with the main office of the building; they might have saved it.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 23 to January 29:

Students:
January 25: Tariq Alaqil
January 25: Alwaleed Alwetaid
January 26: Rakan Almutairi
January 28: Waleed Aldahlawi

Staff:
January 26: Joel Deacon

Happy Birthday, one and all!

ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country you put down when you signed in:

Angola	Kuwait
Argentina	Mauritania
Bolivia	Poland
Brazil	Qatar
Burkina Faso	Saudi Arabia
Chile	Spain
China	Syria
Colombia	Taiwan
Dominican Republic	Thailand
Ecuador	Turkey
Egypt	Uzbekistan
Japan	Venezuela
Korea	Vietnam

Manners and Culture

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 has to do with culture. 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, it's difficult to start the class if all the students aren't there.

Q: Why are Listening & Speaking classes important? Is it necessary to attend the LA class?

The ELI is one of the only programs in the country that has a Language Assistant portion of LS classes. The reason that our program is set up like this is to help you, the students, learn more English.

Many years ago, the Language Assistant portion of the LS class was optional. When we studied the standardized test scores of students who attended the LA portion and those who didn't, we found that the students who attended had higher test scores. This is one of the reasons that attendance during this part of the class is now required.

More importantly, though, both sections of the LS class are important because everything you do in the United States requires speaking. When you go to the store, when you have a problem with your apartment, when you want to rent a car to go on vacation, all of these things require speaking. Even if you have high grammar and reading and writing skills, if you have poor listening and speaking skills, you will present yourself as poorly educated to listeners. Plus, in your LS classes, your teachers and LAs focus on more than just words. They also look at how things are said and how that changes the meaning. These things are important to be a successful user of English.

Grammar

Q: What is the most common exclamation for Americans in each emotion? When do they say it? For example:

Surprise -> Really?
Shock -> Oh, my God!
Amazement -> Wow!
Anger -> Sh__! (You know)

A: Your question is difficult to answer completely, mainly because there are so many variations, even regionally (and according to audience), as to how we express strong emotion.

Those are all good, really, though that last one by itself is more commonly used for sudden pain or clumsiness, such as situations when you hit yourself on the finger with a hammer or you drop your glass of cola all over the white carpet—and that one is very dependent on your audience. It's not something that most of us would say in front of our grandmothers, for example. Also, the use of "God", as in your shock example, is considered to be possibly offensive to some people—be careful about using that one, too!

This is a good time to mention that you might want to ask your Language Assistants in your Listening/Speaking classes about the Curse Words Activity, as well as about other idioms that we use when we want to express strong emotions!

Quote of the Week

If you can, help others; if you cannot do that, at least do not harm them.

Dalai Lama

UF English Language Institute
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

English Language Institute

PO Box 117051

315 Norman Hall

Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA

Phone: (352) 392-2070

Fax: (352) 392-3744

Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu

Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu