

Highlights

- Soccer Tournament
- Notes from your Teachers
- Manners
- ELI Talent Show
- Notes from the Office
- Grammar

The ELI Weekly

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Soccer Tournament

Go ELI Gators!

This Saturday,
February 15th, a

soccer team of UF ELI students will be playing against at least two other university teams. Come on the bus with us to help cheer on our team!

When: Saturday, February 15th at 8:30am

Where: We will meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am and ride the bus to Tallahassee. We'll return at 8:30pm.

Cost: The bus is free but bring money for lunch and dinner!

What to Wear: Wear orange and blue!

IMPORTANT: * Sign up in Norman 318 with Nate and bring your Gator 1 ID.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, on Saturday, February 22nd, we will be traveling to **Busch Gardens** for the day. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*. Please reserve your spot on the van by signing up and paying \$20 in cash, exact change, to Nate in the CIP Office (Norman 318). You can buy the pass starting on Monday, February 17th, from 9am to 12:30pm. Bus passes are first come, first serve, and they do NOT include the price of Busch Gardens tickets. The Busch Gardens Fun Card is \$92 and is good for a year. Please come early; these bus passes will sell out very quickly!

ELI Talent Show

As you probably already know, the ELI is going to have its second annual Talent Show. The talent show is open to ELI students, faculty, staff, and LAs. Acts can include, but are not be limited to:

- o Music
- o Dance
- o Cultural Presentations
- o Created Short Movies
- o Skits
- o Juggling
- o Songs
- o Comedy Routines

When: April 15th, 7:00 to 9:30pm

Where: University Auditorium

Requirements: Every act needs a sponsor. A sponsor can be an LA, teacher, or staff member. The sponsor doesn't have to be your teacher.

The act must be appropriate and not offensive. Each act should be between 3 and 7 minutes. **Group acts are needed!**

Once the act has a sponsor, he or she can sign up with Nate or Jessica..

Note: If we don't get enough acts, then we will have to cancel the show so find a sponsor and sign up!

Notes from your Teachers

Do you feel lost in class? Maybe your teacher is talking too fast or the explanation is unclear. Talk to your teachers. We're here to help you. Talk to the other students. If they understand, they can help you understand it, too.

Class Attendance: Your teachers are inputting your missed classes every week. We're also taking note of every time you speak something other than English. These things are preventing you from getting the scholarship and more importantly from really learning English.

Do you feel homesick? Are you missing class because you feel lonely and you miss your family? This is normal. The best thing to do is talk to your teachers, talk to your classmates, talk to your roommates. Make friends to help the loneliness go away.

Notes from the Office

New ELI Students on F-1 Visas:

If you're a new student and you haven't received an active I-20, please stop by the office to see Daryl.

Immunization: If you got a green note from Emily to get your immunizations done, please get them done. You won't be allowed in class until you do. Every day that you procrastinate is another day of absences.

Change of address: If you changed your address, please let the office know.

Student Mailbox: Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time.

Emails: Remember to check your emails daily. You are receiving messages from your teachers, your LAs, your conversation partners, and the office. Check the junk folder, too!

Free GRE classes: The Teaching Center here at UF is offering free GRE review classes Feb. 17 – 20. You can sign up online, but will need to have a Gatorlink account.

<http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu/reviews.html>

Observations: You may notice visitors in your classes. Don't worry; they're just there to observe your teacher. They're studying to be ESL teachers so they're learning good methods from your instructors before they get into a classroom.

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Q: What do Americans do for Valentine's Day?

A: Many people go out to eat for Valentine's Day. However, the restaurants will be very busy and many have special menus that are much more expensive. Some people go to the movies or have dinner at home. Small children exchange little cards and candy at school.

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between just and only?

A: They can both be used to mean *merely*. They can both be used for objects or verbs.

Correct: It was just a chocolate.

Correct: It was only a chocolate.

Correct: I only eat chocolate.

Correct: I just eat chocolate.

Only can be used to limit the subject of the sentence but *just* can't.

Correct: Only ELI students can go.

Incorrect: Just ELI students can go.

Just can be used to modify negative verbs but *only* can't.

Correct: I just don't understand.

Incorrect: I only don't understand.

Q: Why is while followed by driving in the sentence below?

Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

A: It's a reduced adverb clause. *While* usually uses a progressive (Verb-ing) in a generalization, so it's reduced from "While one is driving". You may have also seen the following:

Reduced: Fasten seat belt while seated.

Long version: Drivers must fasten their seat belt while they are seated (sitting).

Quote of the Week

I like nonsense -- it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope...and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities.

Stanislaw J. Lem



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