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# The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Commencement

*It's around the corner!*

Finally! You made it through the mercurial weather and all the quizzes and homework. Now it's time to celebrate and say goodbye. Come see all your classmates and teachers for the last time.

**When:** Friday, April 25, 2014, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

**Where:** Reitz Union Auditorium

**Who:** Everybody is invited: ELI students, teachers, Language Assistants, and staff as well as friends and family.

## Reminders

If you're planning to go home and then come back to the ELI, please be sure that your I-20 is signed by Daryl.

If you're transferring to another school, next semester make sure you transfer your I-20.

Check-in for summer semester starts on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Late check-in will have a \$100 penalty fee

If you have any fees to pay, do it before the semester ends. If you don't know how to do it or you have questions, see Emily.

## Summer Electives

We will be offering our usual replacement and additional electives this summer.

### To substitute Reading/Writing

- Advanced Informal English

### To substitute Grammar

- Business English

### To substitute Listening/Speaking

- Grammar for Writing

## Manners and Culture

*Q: Why do Americans use the phrase "African American" instead of "Black" to name dark-skinned people?*

A: It is considered by some to be more polite than Black. However, some scholars argue that it's better to use the term Black since there are many groups of Blacks in the US: some whose ancestors came on slave ships centuries ago who no longer have a strong connection to Africa, those who themselves came from Africa and still have a connection to the continent, and those who come from South American or Caribbean countries. If you have dark-skinned friends, ask them which term they would prefer.

*Q: Why do Americans have to put gas in their own cars?*

A: Before the first self-service gas station opened in California, all gas stations were full-service. Stations started offering both services but charging slightly more for full-service so most customers chose to pump their own gas. Now there are only two states, Oregon and New Jersey, where an attendant MUST pump your gas for you.

*Q: What are the appropriate table manners when you are eating in somebody else's house?*

A: Table manners or restaurant etiquette is really important when you are invited to someone else's house for dinner. Remember that people will think that you are rude if you lack manners. So every time you eat, try not to eat with your mouth open, don't burp nor lick your fingers, and remember that proper manners will transmit a good view of yourself as well.

## Grammar

*Q: On my essays, my teacher wrote "This is vague. Use concrete language." What does this mean?*

A: Here are some examples to help:

**Vague:** The weather on the west coast was extreme.

**Concrete:** California experienced snow in the north, thunderstorms in the middle, and a heat wave in the south.

### Special thanks

A special thanks to Listening Speaking 63 for writing this edition of the *ELI Weekly*.

### Quote of the Week

Life is a circle. The end of one journey is the beginning of the next.

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