

## Highlights

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# The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of  
the English Language Institute  
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## Volunteer Day

*Help others while helping yourself!*

This Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the fall 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, May 14<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

**Project Downtown Gainesville**— Want to meet new American friends and UF students? Help serve lunch to the homeless with a UF student organization called Project Downtown Gainesville from 1-2:30pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 12:45pm.

**Habitat for Humanity**— Help build houses for families in need from 8:30am-2pm. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:00am to carpool to the construction site. Wear outdoor clothes and close-toed shoes for working outside.

**Mill Creek Horse Farm**--Help groom retired horses at the Mill Creek Horse Farm from 9am-1pm. We will *leave* Norman Garage at 8:30am. Wear work clothes!

**Blue House**—Do you like to garden? Work alongside residents at the Blue House from 1-4pm. Activities include working in the vegetable garden, landscaping, vegetable preparation for the farmer's market, and house maintenance. Wear close-toed shoes and outdoor clothing, and bring a water bottle! Meet at Norman Garage at 12:45pm.

**International Gator Day**--Volunteer with UF Alumni and students from across the nation at UF's International Gator Day from 9am-12pm! We will be volunteering at the Girls Place, Inc. Activities include painting, organizing, and small building projects such as fixing wooden picnic tables and bridges. Wear close-toed shoes and outdoor clothing. Meet at Norman Garage at 8:45am.

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

Have a great day, everyone!

## Notes from the Office

- **Immunizations**-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. We often

have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don't be one of them!

- **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.

## The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to **Lake Wauburg**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

## Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from May 15-21:

Students:

May 15: Madeline Traore

May 21: Carole Yehouenou

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## ELI Countries Represented

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

Benin	Libya
Brazil	Mali
Burkina Faso	Qatar
China	Saudi Arabia
Colombia	Spain
Honduras	Taiwan
Japan	Thailand
Jordan	Ukraine
Korea	UAE
Kuwait	United States
	Venezuela

## Manners and Culture

*Q: I wonder about American tip culture. Who should I tip? How much? In my country, we don't tip.*

Interesting you should ask; usually, we don't have any questions yet, and I run a tip column instead of a manners column. So, I'm going to give you my standard answer!

Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that

you might think require tipping that don't. The following is a pretty good indicator--though not a totally exhaustive list--of when and where and how much you should tip:

**Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors:** 15 to 20% of the total bill

**Hotels:** Bellhops, \$1 per bag; \$5 minimum total; Concierge, \$5 to \$10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, \$1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total--sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

**Parking:** Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, \$2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

**Pizza Delivery:** \$1 per pizza

**Restaurants:** 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only \$2.13 an hour--less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

**Taxis:** \$1 minimum, 15% on fares over \$8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two--but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don't offer. Another note to

remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

*Q: Why do Americans like beer so much?*

A: It seems that way, doesn't it? You're in a college town, and college students tend to drink more beer than a lot of the population at large. It's a fairly inexpensive way to consume alcohol. The US, though, isn't even in the top 10 when it comes to per capita beer consumption--we rank only 13<sup>th</sup>. The top 12, in order are: the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Austria, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Slovakia, and Spain.

## Grammar

No grammar questions yet this week! Be sure to send me some.

## Quote of the Week

One has to get on with life and I haven't done badly. People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining.

– Stephen Hawking

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