

Highlights

- Ichetucknee
- Birthdays
- Notes from the Office
- Manners

The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
Volume 109, Issue 6
June 12, 2009*



Let's Try this Again! *Outdoor Fun*

So, cross your fingers and hope that the weather cooperates with us this week! Take part in a unique Gainesville summertime tradition!! Float down the beautiful, crystal clear water of the Ichetucknee River while you relax in an inner tube. Enjoy the Florida sunshine, the cool water and the company of your ELI family!!

When: Saturday, June 13th. Meet at NRN Garage 10am. Each car will decide its own return time, probably around 3:00pm. Sign up on the activities board by 4pm, Thursday, June 11th.

Cost: The entrance fee is \$5.00 for each car. Also bring about \$5 to rent an inner tube.

What to Bring: Bring lunch, snacks, or money for lunch, your bathing suit, and sunscreen.

Notes from the Office

- **Summer Break and I-20s**
Summer break is only a week and a half away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada or Mexico—please remember to come to the office

to have your I-20 signed so that you won't have trouble getting back into the country!

- **July 4th Holiday**—The week that we come back from break, on Friday, July 4th, there will be no classes and the ELI Main Office will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday.

Summer Weather Safety

We've come to realize in the past that not all of our students are aware of our unique weather problems in Central Florida. One hazard that you should watch out for is **lightning**. We have more thunderstorms in the summertime here in Florida than there are in a year in any place else in the world, so lightning here is a serious danger. Whenever there is a thunderstorm threatening, you should go inside as soon as possible. A car is also a safe place. **DO NOT** stand under a tree or near anything that might be the tallest thing in the area or use a metal-tipped umbrella, as that is exactly where lightning is most likely to hit.

Another thing that you should prepare for (though it's certainly much less likely than thunderstorms!)

is **hurricanes**. You can go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> to keep apprised of hurricane activity, and they also have some excellent preparation and planning tips in their left-hand navigation menu. Also, of course, if there is any hurricane threatening Gainesville, we here at the ELI will keep you informed and make sure you know what to do and where to go. The main thing about the NOAA website is that they have some excellent tips about early preparation!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, there will be no trip, as it is the start of our Summer Break. The next activity will be our **Midterm Picnic**, which will also be the welcome picnic for our incoming B-term students.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of June 12-18:

Students:
June 12: Yahya Aseri
June 15: Mohammed Kidrawi
June 16: Ibrahim Alkhedair

June 17: Waleed Aljadhie

June 18: Haiyan Xing

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why do Americans open the door for strangers?

A: We don't always. This is more a big-city vs. small-town custom. I don't really have much of a problem opening the door to strangers here in Gainesville, particularly in the apartment complex where I live, because it's a low-crime area and there really isn't any reason for me not to. Still, I have a tendency to leave my door locked even when I'm at home and to use the peephole to look out before I do open the door.

Q: Why do you say, "Bless you," when a student sneezes?

A: This is just generally what we say for a sneeze—we also occasionally use the German phrase,

"Gesundheit!" It's customary for us to say it when anybody sneezes. To leave the sneeze unacknowledged is considered rude.

Q: Do Americans like foreign students?

A: In my experience, we do. Obviously, I can't speak for the other 315 million or so people, but we are a pretty friendly bunch, and we do like to find out about other cultures.

Q: Why aren't there more convenience stores in the US?

A: Just as a personal observation, it seems to me that this is a peculiarity of Gainesville. Many of our towns and cities actually do seem to have more of them per capita, with less distance between them. The town that I moved here from certainly did.

Grammar

Q: Which is correct: "I wanna see a movie," or "I want to see a movie"?

A: This is an interesting point that is terribly confusing for many foreign speakers. Basically, the first one is what we say and the second one is what we write. This is called reduction, and it's a phenomenon that occurs when our speech starts to run the sounds of common phrases together. After many years, decades or centuries of use, the reduction often actually becomes the written word.

Q: Is there an easy way to learn irregular verbs?

A: No, unfortunately, there isn't. It's one of those things like vocabulary in general that only comes with memorization and practice.

Quote of the Week

Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the first suffering, how we can turn it into good. So shall we take occasion, from one bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers.

Leigh Hunt

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