Midterms

Good luck on your exams!

There is no scheduled ELI trip this weekend, as it is the beginning of our Summer Break! Meanwhile, this week, many classes will be holding Midterm Exams. Good luck on your exams, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **Summer Break and I-20s**
  Summer break is less than a week 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**—On Monday, July 5th, 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 lighting 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!

Crescent Beach, on Saturday, July 3rd. Details on this trip will be in the next issue of the Weekly and on the Activities Board.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the weeks of June 18-July 1:

Students:
June 24: Aminata Ouedraogo

Staff:
June 19: Emily Kirby
June 29: Valentina Komaniecka

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 in the US, 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 and
phrasal 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