

Highlights

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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Busch Gardens *Theme Park Fun!*

Busch Gardens is a theme park in Tampa. It is famous for its roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the roller coasters is "Sheikra", that has two 90 degree angle drops making it the first coaster of its kind in the Americas and only the third in the world. This is one of the most popular trips of the semester, don't miss it!

For more information visit their website at www.buschgardens.com

WHEN: Saturday, July 24th. We will meet at the Norman Hall garage at 9:00am. The park will be open until 10:00pm. Depending on the group decision, we may return to Gainesville as late as 12:00midnight. We will go rain or shine.

TRANSPORTATION: This is a van trip so you must purchase a transportation pass for \$20 from Noreen in the CIP office on Tuesday, July 20th from 9:30am – 1:30pm. **This is non-refundable. Please bring exact change.**

COST: The cost of transportation is \$20 for a seat in the van. Busch Gardens admission tickets for Florida residents are \$69.95. **Bring your Gator 1 card or Florida driver's license to**

prove that you are a Florida resident.

You can buy your admission ticket to Busch Gardens now and use it as many times as you want until December 31, 2010.

Bring money for food and souvenirs.

Notes from the Office

- **Library Fines and Infirmary Fees**—Since we're coming closer to the end of the semester, we just want to remind you that now is a good time to think about clearing up any fees and fines that you might have with the university. If there are any outstanding balances owed, we won't be able to release any of your academic information or certificates to you.
- **Travel and I-20s**--Don't forget, if you are planning to leave the country during the break between semesters and then return to the US, you must have your I-20 signed in the ELI Main Office (Room 315) in order to be allowed back into the country!

Next Weekend

Next Weekend, on Saturday, July 31st, we will be going **Rock Climbing at Lake Wauburg South!** Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Student Voices

Steve wants us to let you know that the deadline for the *ELI Student Voices* is coming up! Please have all materials to Steve by Friday, July 30th. Entries should be submitted electronically to his email at sflocks@ufl.edu.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from July 23-29:

Students:

July 23: Majed Haanbazaza
July 26: Abdulsalam Alanazi
July 26: Mubarak Alkatheeri

Staff:

July 26: Noreen Baker
July 29: Todd Allen

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Grammar

Q: What is the most common exclamation for Americans in each emotion? When do they say it?

For example:

Surprise -> Really?

Shock -> Oh, my God!

Amazement -> Wow!

Anger -> Sh__! (You know)

A: Your question is difficult to answer completely, mainly because there are so many variations, even regionally (and according to audience), as to how we express strong emotion.

Those are all good, really, though that last one by itself is more commonly used for sudden pain or clumsiness, such as situations when you hit yourself on the finger with a hammer or you drop your glass of cola all over the white carpet—and that one is very dependent on your audience. It's not something that most of us would say in front of our grandmothers, for example. Also, the use of "God", as in your shock example, is considered to be possibly offensive to some people—be careful about using that one, too!

This is a good time to mention that you might want to ask your Language Assistants in your Listening/Speaking classes about the Curse Words Activity, as well as about other idioms that we use when we want to express strong emotions!

Q: "If I were a child, I would read a lot of books." In this example, why isn't it, "If I was a child...?"

A: This is an unreal conditional. That is, in this statement, you're not now a child, so that's an unreal situation. In an unreal present/future conditional, we use what is called the past subjunctive in the "if" clause. In every verb but one, that looks exactly the same as the simple past. The exception is the verb "to be", in which case we use only the "were" form. It reads the same way no matter what the subject is, including "I" and "he/she/it". So, you would also say, "If he were a child..." the same way.

Manners and Culture

Q: What are the traditional foods in the US?

A: There's no one really good answer. The US is made up of many different regions, each with its own foods and customs. Mainly, you will find that hamburgers are favorites around the country, and the formerly Southern specialty fried chicken is really popular, too. In the Northeast, seafood is very popular. In the South, heavy fried foods, vegetables cooked in fat, and biscuits are the norm. In the Midwest, corn is probably the most ubiquitous food. In Texas and the Southwest, it's beef and northern Mexican spices. And in the Pacific Northwest, Salmon is very popular. Generally, you will find that most Americans have bread and potatoes as their starches, but there are variations on that, too!

Quote of the Week

The easiest thing in the world to be is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position.
Leo Buscaglia



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