

## 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 28<sup>th</sup>, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the summer 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 26<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

**Mill Creek Horse Farm** — Help groom, pet, and feed retired horses from 8:15am-12pm. You will not be able to ride the horses. Meet at Norman Garage.

**Habitat for Humanity** — Help paint and add finishing touches to houses built for the poor from 9:15am-12pm. Meet at Norman Garage.

**St. Francis House** — Prepare and serve lunch to the homeless people of Gainesville from 9:45am-1pm. Meet at Norman Garage.

**Project Downtown Gainesville** — Help serve lunch to the homeless with a UF student organization called

Project Downtown Gainesville from 12:30pm-2:30pm. Meet at Norman Garage.

**Emeritus** — Play Wii and talk with elderly people from 1:30pm-4pm. Meet at Norman Garage.

**North Florida Rehab Center** — Help residents make arts and crafts projects from 1:30pm-4pm. This is a great event for the whole family to enjoy! Meet at Norman Garage.

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

Have a great day, everyone!

## The Next Trip

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

Want to go? Get your Islands of Adventure tickets online or at the gate. Transportation passes are \$20 from Noreen in 318 on Wednesday May 25 from 9:30am to 1:30 pm and Thursday from 9:30am to 12:00pm. **You must pay cash, exact change only, and the money is nonrefundable.**

We have 12 seats available, so get your ticket right away! If we do not sell enough tickets, the trip will be CANCELLED!

## Birthdays

Last week, some birthdays were missed. We apologize! The following are ELI birthdays from May 20-June 2:

Students:

May 17: Fahad Alotaibi  
May 17: Alberto Muratty Maiti  
May 17: Viczabeth Marquez  
May 23: Tariq Alobud  
May 23: Mariano Correia  
May 24: Tatiana Velasco Bruno  
May 26: Hyerim Lee  
May 26: Jassim Al Naama  
May 26: Jorge Cañas Idrogo  
May 27: Mohammed Albaqami  
May 27: Muhaysen Naif Alotaibi  
May 28: Jaber Alshehri

June 2: Mohammed Al Marri

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

## Daily Activities

The following is our afternoon activity schedule. Please check the Activities Board from time to time to see if there are any changes.

| Day/Time             | Activity                   | Location/Cost  |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Monday<br>7:00 PM    | Pool and Bowling<br>(C.J.) | Meet in the Reitz Union Game Room.<br>Bring money for games.                     |
| Tuesday<br>7:00 PM   | Soccer<br>(Noah)           | Normal Field<br>Free   |
| Wednesday<br>7:00 PM | Coffee Talk<br>(Sandra)    | Starbuck's on Archer Rd.<br>Free<br>Bring money for coffee and food if you like. |
| Thursday<br>7:00 PM  | Mochi<br>(Becky)           | Mochi on Archer Rd.<br>Free<br>Bring money for a drink if you like.              |
| Friday<br>7:00 PM    | Volleyball<br>(Joanna)     | Volleyball courts by Southwest Rec Center<br>Free                                |

## Note from Daryl

Remember! If you would like to make an appointment to speak with Daryl, he will only be available Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays this term. Tuesday and Thursday he will be busy helping new students before they arrive.

## Manners and Culture

*Q: What is the polite way to place my knife and fork when I finish my meal?*

A: On your plate. The arrangement doesn't really matter beyond that. You may also place your napkin beside the plate when you're completely finished, but if you just get up in the middle of the meal and come back, leave it on your chair.

*Q: Why do American Guys never kiss each other when they meet?*

A: Like so many customs related to greeting, ours come from Northern Europe, where this custom didn't develop the way it did in Southern European and Mediterranean culture. When two American men do kiss as a matter of custom upon meeting, there are multiple possibilities. If they kiss on the cheek, they probably have some connection to Mediterranean culture (this may be especially true in South Florida). If they kiss on the mouth, as is becoming more common these days, then they may well be a couple.

*Q: What is the polite form for religion questions? Sometimes people invite you to go to their church before they know you well. What can you do in this case?*

A: There is no really polite form for religion questions for people you don't know well. This is considered a taboo topic in polite American society, as we are a very pluralistic society and religion is a source of potential conflict.

That having been said, if you know someone pretty well or they know

clearly that you are asking from a cultural point of view, then you may ask first politely if it's all right to ask about their religion. Just be aware that there may be a lively discussion.

As to the last part of your question, just like anything else, you have a choice. You can accept if you're curious and interested, or you can politely decline with a "No thank you." There is no further explanation required, and you may consider the person rude if they persist. In the case of people officially assigned to you such as conversation or EESEE partners, if there is a situation that makes you feel at all uncomfortable, you should please come and talk to Noreen or Roxy as soon as possible.

## Grammar

*Q: When can I write in the passive form?*

A: You may use it when the performer of the action is completely unknown or completely obvious and redundant, or if you are in a situation in which you really don't want to reveal the performer of the action.

Good passive: The store was robbed.

Bad passive: The homework was done by the students.

Active: The students did the homework

## Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

--Robin Williams



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