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CIES Nole News

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Food for a Cause

Saud Alajmi Memorial Food Drive

Last summer was a very sad session

here at CIES. On July 12, 2014, one of our CIES students, Saud Alajmi, passed away. Saud was young and very energetic – he had many friends here at CIES. There was a memorial service last year to remember Saud and many of his friends and teachers shared stories about their experiences with him. We also remember him by keeping a photo of him in the CIES conference room.

As a way to remember Saud, we are beginning a new tradition here. We are having a food drive at CIES these next few weeks. We are doing this in honor of Saud, and all of the food will be donated to Second Harvest. Second Harvest is an organization that collects food and then distributes this food to those that are hungry or needy. We will make this food drive an annual tradition.

We will be collecting food donations for the remainder of the session. If you are planning to leave Tallahassee after this session, this might be a good opportunity to clean out some of your extra food. Canned goods, boxed foods, and juices are all good examples of things to donate. Do not donate bread, produce, or anything that is perishable.

TEFL Program @ CIES

Here in Florida, there are many places where you can go to learn English. However, one of the things that makes CIES truly the best is the fact that we have a TEFL program. This program is for people who want to learn how to be English teachers and go to another country and teach English. Many of the students in the TEFL program are FSU

students, but there are other students who are all different ages.

The TEFL students work as conversation partners and some help tutor students. For those of you who have worked with a TEFL student, you know that it is a mutual process. As a CIES student, you learn English from the TEFL students. However, the TEFL



students also learn from you! According to Ramin Yazdanpanah, “the TEFL students are here to learn from you and about your culture!” The TEFL students are eager to learn from you, and many of you can help these students prepare for going abroad to teach.

In addition to working as conversation partners and tutors, some TEFL students become teaching assistants (TA). This session we have Robin, Kyle, and Joan working as TA's. Joan Kallestad (pictured above), who works with the Grammar Group 4 class, has worked at FSU for many years. She decided that the TEFL class would be a challenging opportunity for her, and it would allow her to meet students from all over the world. Although teaching grammar can be hard, Joan is learning many useful teaching skills and making new friends in the process. Joan says that “this experience has been very rewarding for me, but, at the same time, it has been very challenging as well. All of the students I've met here are awesome!”

Reminders from the office

- If you plan to go home during the summer break (August 1 to August 23), you must see Lacey and get your I-20 signed. She doesn't need to see a plane ticket, but it is necessary to get her signature.
- We have brand new state-of-the-art computers in our computer lab. To make sure that nothing bad happens to these computers, it is vital that you keep liquids away from the computers. If you have a water bottle, seal it and put it in your bag. Other beverages should be left outside of the lab.

It's getting hot in here

July and August are the hottest months of the year in Tallahassee. As a result, the air conditioning in most buildings is always on and sometimes the buildings may be a little bit cold. However, please do not open windows in the classrooms!! Letting in hot air will make the air conditioner work harder; also, letting in the moist humid air will cause others to be uncomfortable. If you get cold, perhaps get a sweater to keep in your book bag or, better yet, walk outside during the breaks between classes. You'll warm up pretty quickly that way!

Happy Birthday

Pedro Celso Pereira Filho (July 15)
Vanessa Velasquez (July 15)
Thamer Majed Almotlaq (July 20)

Culture Question

Question: What is Eid and who celebrates it?

A: Eid is the most important holiday for Muslims. The word 'Eid' means 'holiday or celebration' in Arabic. The full name of the holiday is 'Eid ul-Fitr.' It is the first day of a new month in the Islamic calendar, and it is a day to celebrate the end of the fast. Each month begins with the sighting of a new (empty) moon, so the crescent moon is a symbol of Islam. As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, Ramadan is a time of fasting and special devotion. Eid is a day of festivities and most Muslims eat A LOT of food on Eid. Since this is the most important holiday of the year in many Muslim countries, Eid is usually a festival celebrated over three days. People will return home to be with their families, and they may eat many large meals with different groups of friends and families over several days. Schools and businesses will close during these days. Since this is such an important holiday, be sure to wish all of your Muslim classmates 'Eid Mubarak!' Additionally, there is a second Eid holiday which is celebrated two months after Eid ul-Fitr (in September this year). We will talk more about this Eid in the fall.



Language Question

Question: Is it better to say "give them" or "give to them"?

Answer: Both of them are correct. The simple answer is that when you can avoid using a preposition in English, do so.

The verb 'give' is a verb that takes a direct object and an indirect object. A direct object receives the action of the verb. An indirect answers the question 'to who' or 'to what'. For the verb give, the direct object answers the question 'what?' (what are you giving?) and the indirect object answers the question 'to whom'.

Example: *I gave the book to John.*

In this sentence the direct object is 'book' and the indirect object is 'John.' However, very often the direct object can be found BEFORE the direct object. When the indirect object comes first, you do not need a preposition.

Correct: I gave John the book.

For a native English speaker, it generally sounds better to put the indirect object before the direct object. Very often the indirect object is replaced by a pronoun.

Examples:

I gave her a cookie.

I've given them many opportunities.

One special exception is the pronoun *it*. If the direct object of the verb is the pronoun *it*, then the indirect object must be after the pronoun *it* and also needs the preposition 'to'.

Incorrect: I gave John it.

Correct: I gave it to him.

The verb 'send' is very similar to the verb 'give'.

Label each of the following sentences as correct or incorrect:

- I've given every book I have to he.
- I sent her it already.
- John gives Sally his lunch every day.
- My mother gave me a car as a graduation gift. (Editor's note: this didn't actually happen)

Quote of the Week

I choose to make the rest of my life the best of my life.

- Louise Hay

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This week's vocabulary:

remainder (noun) – the amount of something that is left over or remaining

produce (noun) – fruits and vegetables

perishable (adjective) – only good for a short period of time; something that goes bad (or expires) quickly

mutual (adjective) – benefiting or helping both people

eager (adjective) – excited; energetic or happy to learn about something

state-of-the-art (compound modifier) – new; very modern; very technological

humid (adjective) – moist; full of water; saturated (used most often to describe air that isn't dry)