

- Thanksgiving
- CIES Voices Deadline

- Upcoming Events
- Notes from the Office

- Culture & Language Questions



CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



Volume 11, Issue 6



A Time to Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 24

Every year on the 4th Thursday in

November, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. This is a unique American holiday, and it is a holiday that Americans take very seriously. It is one of two times of the year (the other being Christmas) that Americans make a point to travel to be with their family members. The earliest Thanksgiving happened around 400 years ago when early settlers to North America gave thanks for being able to survive on the new American continent. Over the years, Americans have made many important Thanksgiving traditions. Here are a few things to know about Thanksgiving:

(1) Since tens of millions of Americans try to spend the holiday with their family, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after Thanksgiving are two of the busiest travel days in the entire year. If you are traveling on those days, **please be careful when driving due to the heavy traffic.**

(2) There are certain foods associated with Thanksgiving. These foods include turkey, stuffing or dressing (made from cornbread), cranberries, and pumpkin or sweet potato pie. Families spend hours preparing these foods. You will all get a chance to try some of these foods at our Thanksgiving Lunch next Monday as well as the International Dinner on December 2nd!

(3) **Transportation in Tallahassee is limited during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.** If you plan on using the busses to travel around town, please check the schedule to make sure it is operating. Most stores

(including grocery stores) are closed Thursday.

(4) The day after Thanksgiving is called Black Friday. Read about this holiday in the culture question on the next page.

Don't forget that CIES will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Monday. We will have Thanksgiving food available for everyone! **If you plan to be here on Monday, please sign the sheet on the board so we have enough food for everyone.**

CIES Voices in 2 weeks

Entries for CIES Voices will be due in two weeks. There are already many of you who are interested! It doesn't matter what level or group you're in. Everyone has something important and special to say, and we want to hear what you have to say! Any essay, paragraph, journal, or composition that you've done this semester (Fall I or Fall II) can be submitted to CIES Voices. This is a wonderful opportunity for your work to be published on the internet and to be recognized by everyone. Don't be shy! Your composition teacher can tell you more about CIES Voices and he/she will tell you when you've written something you should submit! Submit your writing to your composition teacher by the Monday after Thanksgiving (**Monday, November 28th**). You may also submit your writing to Andrew Wilson: acwilson@fsu.edu. This will be a fun opportunity for everyone!

Future Events!

DECEMBER 2: Our international dinner is coming up after Thanksgiving. This is our

favorite time of the session. We will all celebrate with a delicious potluck meal, and we will get to say goodbye to the students who are leaving at the end of the session. This is both a happy and a sad time for all of us. The dinner will be at 6pm, and we will follow that with rewards, special recognition, and dancing!

DECEMBER 3: Please don't forget about the **Jingle Bell Run** on Saturday, December 3rd. This will be our last event of the semester, so it might be your last chance to see everyone. There will be thousands of people from all over Tallahassee participating. You may run or jog in the race if you want, but it is also fine just to walk and enjoy the beautiful Tallahassee neighborhoods. See the signup at the front desk or ask Jen Dickinson if you have questions. Remember, if you signup, you'll get a t-shirt as well as some fun bells to wear!

Notes from the Office

* If you are going home for the winter holiday and returning in January, please see Lacey to have her sign your I-20 **before you leave.** You cannot return to the United States without it. If you are transferring to another school, you will be using your new school's I-20 when you return.

*** Please remember to **put your dirty coffee cups in the dishwasher when you are finished!** Only leave them in the sink if the dishwasher is full. If you see other cups in the sink, you can help us all by putting them in the dishwasher. This will help keep our kitchen clean, and it will make it easier for everyone to use the sink. ☺

Happy Birthday!

Since there is no newsletter next week, the following students have birthdays during the next two weeks.

Ruyi Xu (November 20)

Maria Alejandra Mejia (November 26)

Maria Stephany Mejia (November 26)

Faisal Alsaif (November 29)

Culture Question

Question: What is Black Friday and how does it get its name?

Answer: Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year. If you are brave enough to travel to a mall or shopping center this day, you will find many thousands of people. Although the crowds are heavy, it is also a day to get very good discounts and sales at many stores. Stores like Walmart and Target also have excellent bargains.



Black Friday gets its name from a business term.

When businesses calculate the amount of money they have, they use two terms. "In the red" means that a business has spent more money than it has earned. "In the black" means that a business has earned more money than it has spent. For many stores in the US, Black Friday is the day

where they have officially earned enough money to cover their expenses for the year. For example, a store that sells an average of \$5000 a day worth of merchandise may sell up to \$100,000 on Black Friday!

For those of you looking to buy gifts for your family before returning home, please put Monday November 28th on your calendar! This is a day called 'Cyber Monday', and it is the one day of the year to get the best prices on online websites and for many electronic/technological goods. This is a great time to save some money, but remember it is for one day only!

Language Question

Question: Is it better to use in, at, or on when talking about time?

All of these prepositions can be used when you are talking about time. The difference is how much time you are talking about.

in: *In* is usually used to refer to a block of time. We can use *in* for large periods of time (a thousand years), specific years (1985),

seasons (fall,winter,etc.), or months of the year.

on: *On* is used for a more specific time. You can use *on* with specific dates or holidays (Thanksgiving, her birthday, November 28th) as well as days of the week.

at: *At* is the most specific preposition of time. You use this for times of day. Examples of this could be 2:15pm, 7pm, or noon.

Read the following sentences and choose the best preposition.

- 1- The party will end tonight *in/on/at* midnight.
- 2- We're planning on going to Key West *in/on/at* the spring.
- 3- I want to go to that nice new restaurant *in/on/at* my birthday next week. (* *for* also works here)
- 4- CIES Voices writing samples should be submitted *in/on/at* or before November 28th.

Quote of the Week

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

- Marcel Proust



Center for Intensive English Studies
634 West Call Street
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1127
Phone: (850) 644-4797
Fax: (850) 644-7417
Email: cies@admin.fsu.edu
www.cies.fsu.edu
www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU
Nole News Editor: Andrew Wilson

This week's vocabulary:

settler (noun) – a person who moves from one place to start a new life (to settle) in a new place

limited (noun) – restricted; not the full amount; not necessarily enough

potluck (noun) – a meal where everyone brings a dish to share

recognize (verb) / recognition (noun) – to honor or to speak of someone who has done something noteworthy

bargain (noun) – a good deal: an item purchased for an excellent price

merchandise (noun) – items that are sold in a store