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CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



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A fun time for the family @ Tallahassee Museum

Information about one of Tallahassee's neatest destinations

Those of you who are new to Tallahassee should visit the Tallahassee Museum. This is a place in Tallahassee that is fun for people of all ages. There are plants, animals, historical exhibits, and even a fun outdoor ropes course where you can move high in the air over water! This is a truly must-see location in Tallahassee! Be sure to check it out in the future and bring your family.

CIES was scheduled to visit the Tallahassee Museum on Friday, but it is going to rain on Friday. We will instead plan a trip to the bowling alley. Please pay attention to the CIES Facebook page for more details about Friday's trip. Jen Dickinson will make announcements about this Friday in class.

Getting to Know Felicia Ciappetta

We have the expression in English which is "to wear many hats." We use this when we describe someone who has many jobs and duties. Here at CIES, Felicia Ciappetta is someone who wears many hats. She is the coordinator of the Intensive English program here; she arranges teachers and students schedules and makes sure that all of the classes run smoothly. However, over the past years Felicia has served as activities coordinator, conversation partner coordinator, and many other jobs!

Felicia grew up in Ocala, which is a town in central Florida near Gainesville. She came to FSU in 1999, and she studied Spanish as an undergraduate student. In her early

years at FSU, Felicia was involved in a sorority, and she was very active in meeting people and traveling with her sorority. After she graduated from FSU, Felicia moved back to Ocala where she became a high school Spanish and Language Arts teacher.

In 2006 she returned to FSU, and in 2008 she began working at CIES. She has

worked on many textbooks, and she has taught thousands of students from all over the world. She is a person that all of the teachers can turn to when they have a problem. Now, Felicia is still a student at FSU – she's now working on a PhD in Foreign and Second Language Teaching. Even though she's got a very busy work schedule, Felicia spends a lot of time doing work on her house. She has built new things for her house, painted, remodeled her kitchen, and even built a large shed behind her house. Felicia is someone who always stays busy, but she always has time to listen to anyone with problems or questions.



Birthdays

Abdulmohsen Alqarni (September 15)

Abdulghaffar Saati (September 16)

Jiewen Yang (September 18)

Linh Tran (September 20)

Providing the Perfect Assistance

Pets are very popular in America. Pets provide companionship, and they make life fun and more enjoyable for many people. Dogs and cats are the most popular pets in the United States, and we will talk more about pets in the US next week.

As most of you have noticed, we have a special dog here at CIES. Rebecca Turk has a service dog named Trissy. A service dog is a special kind of dog that has received many many hours of training. Service dogs are trained to help people and they behave and never make noise. Some dogs can be wild and angry, but service dogs are very quiet – you sometimes forget they are there.

Trissy is here to help Rebecca while her back is getting stronger. Even though Trissy is a beautiful dog, remember not to pet her. When Trissy has her red service jacket on, it means that she is working and you should not pet her or say her name. We are happy that Trissy is part of the CIES family.



Editor's Note about commas

In Issue 2 (August 31), there was an article about comma usage when writing large numbers. As you may remember, we use commas when writing large numbers (Example: 525,600). However, with 4-digit numbers, a comma isn't always used. (Some people may write 4,312 or some people might write 4312.) However, be aware that it is more formal to use a comma when writing 4-digit commas. If you are doing academic or formal writing, be sure to write 4,312 not 4312. Although you will see people using both, **it is always better to be careful and write the more formal way.**

Culture Question

Question: What is the difference between a hurricane and a tropical storm?

Answer: A few of you have asked questions about hurricanes. As you know, Hurricane Hermine hit Tallahassee two weeks ago. A hurricane starts out as a thunderstorm in the ocean. Since the oceans are very hot in the summer, the warm water helps the thunderstorms grow into hurricanes. These hurricanes grow stronger. Sometimes the hurricanes can be as big as entire countries!

Before a storm is a hurricane, it becomes a tropical storm and gets a name. If a tropical storm hits land, it usually causes lots of rain

and flooding. However, once a tropical storm has winds over 75mph (120 kilometers an hour), it becomes a hurricane.



Hurricanes have different strengths. Even though it caused a lot of damage in Tallahassee, Hurricane Hermine was only a Category

1 hurricane! Strong storms have a higher category number:

Category 1 winds: **75mph - 95mph**
Category 2 winds: **96mph - 110mph**
Category 3 winds: **111 - 129mph**
Category 4 winds: **130 - 156 mph**
Category 5 winds: **greater than 156mph** (250 kilometers per hour!!)

Even though this last hurricane seemed bad, we should all be thankful that it wasn't stronger. A category 3, 4, or 5 hurricane would have required all of us to leave Tallahassee and could have led to many deaths.

Language Questions

Question: What do you call the last letter of the alphabet?

Answer: As most of you have probably noticed, Americans pronounce the last letter of the alphabet (z) as 'zee' (it rhymes with

how we pronounce the letter 'c'). In almost every other English speaking country (and indeed in many other languages), the letter is pronounced 'zed.' Your CIES teachers will definitely understand you if you say 'zed' but most Americans will not. It is important to know this, especially if you have a 'z' in your name. You may often times have to spell something for someone, and saying 'zed' would confuse most Americans.

Question: What do you call the punctuation that occurs at the end of sentences?

Answer: This is another difference between American English versus other varieties of English. At the end of a sentence the punctuation [.] is called a period in American English and a full-stop in other types of English. Again, your CIES teachers will understand you, but 'full stop' is not a term familiar to most Americans.

Additionally, If you are reading the period in a number (3.14) it is pronounced as 'point,' and if you are reading it as part of an email address, it is pronounced as 'dot'.

Quote of the Week

**If you don't like something, change it.
If you can't change it, change your attitude.**

- Maya Angelou

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This week's vocabulary:

exhibit (noun) – an object, group of objects, or information that is displayed (often in a museum)

undergraduate (adjective/noun) – the first years of college; a student in a university who doesn't have a bachelor's degree

sorority (adjective) – a social organization for women (often found at universities)

to remodel (verb) – to take something that is old and make it more modern or newer (such as a building)

shed (noun) – a small and informal building that is used for storage or shelter

companionship (noun) – being around friends; being in the company of a person or animal to prevent loneliness

to train (verb) / training (noun) - to spend time learning how to do something