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CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



Volume 3, Issue 5



Fun on the Island

Friday's trip to SGI

Florida is perhaps most famous for its beaches. We are all lucky to live in a state that has many wonderful beaches and outdoor activities. One of the closest beaches to Tallahassee is found on St. George Island (SGI). We will be heading to SGI this **Friday** after classes. Since there will be listening and speaking classes on Friday morning, we will not leave for the trip until **12:30**. St. George Island is about a two-hour drive from Tallahassee. Although Tallahassee is extremely hot, the beach is a little cooler because of a **breeze** from the ocean. The water temperature will be perfect – the water is not too cold, but it will still cool you off.

If you have plan to go on Friday, please be punctual! Since we are going later in the day, we probably won't be getting back to Tallahassee until after dark (10pm). The sun is not as bright during the late afternoon, but it still important to bring sunscreen so you don't get a sunburn. You may also want to bring something to snack on as well as money for dinner.

Be sure to take plenty of pictures – this may be one of the last opportunities you have to hang out with many of your CIES friends.

CIES Voices

This session we will be doing another CIES Voices writing competition. Please submit your best writing from this session. You can submit a journal, a paragraph, a five-paragraph essay, or anything else that you have written. The competition is fun and

there is a prize for the winners! Please submit your entries to your composition teacher before next Tuesday – the winners will be announced at the International Dinner on July 31st! Some of your teachers may even give you an assignment grade or extra credit for submitting something. Please email Andrew Wilson (acwilson@fsu.edu).

Finals & Evals

These next two weeks are extremely important at CIES. We have final exams in all of our classes, so it is essential that you all plan to attend classes these days.

Thursday July 23: **Composition Writing**

Monday July 27: **Reading Final**

Tuesday July 28:
Listening Final

Wednesday July 29:
Speaking Final

Thursday July 30: **Grammar Final**



Also, **do not forget to complete an evaluation of your teacher!** These must be done this week. Most of your teachers will give you time in class to complete these, but if you are absent and unable to do these in class, please use the scan codes found in the classroom or on myCIES and complete the evaluation online. They only take a few minutes!

Important Reminders!!

- If you are a student who is sponsored (receives government financial support), check your financial support letter for the expiration date. Your letters have to be up-to-date **before the first day of class** (August 24). If these letters are not up-to-date, your schedule will be blocked and you cannot attend classes. We strongly encourage that you get these letters updated soon, so you don't have to worry about it when you return from vacation. Don't **procrastinate** – the sooner, the better. Each day you miss counts towards your attendance!
- If you pay your own tuition at CIES (not government sponsored), please remember that tuition is due on August 24th, the first day of class. Please start gathering and organizing your finances now so you can be prepared to meet this financial deadline.

Planning Ahead – International Dinner

July 30th is our last day of class, and many of you are eager to return home or go travelling during the August break. However, everyone should try to attend the **International Dinner on Friday July 31st at 6pm**. This dinner is a long tradition at CIES. It is the last opportunity for many of us to say goodbye to each other. We will honor students with certificates and announce the winners of the writing competition. Go ahead and put this event on your calendar! Our theme this year will be a Hawaiian luau, so there will be a lot of fun clothes and festive decorations! ☺

Happy Birthday

Rebecca Turk (July 22)
Jezica Cristina de Sa Sousa (July 27)

Flags, Flags, Flags!!

CIES will be participating in this fall's **homecoming** celebration. Although this won't be until October and November, we want to start planning soon. If you are going home for the break, **please bring flags from your home country back with you.** We will use these flags to celebrate the homecoming parade. Large flags might be great for the parade, and smaller ones might be good for you or your friends to wave.

Culture Question

Question: Is it rude to use my phone in a restaurant or in the car?

A: Generally speaking, yes. If you go to a restaurant, you will likely see many people texting on their phone. People might look at you funny if you're at an **upscale** restaurant, but in most casual restaurants no one will notice. However, it is considered rude to talk on your phone in a restaurant! It is natural for a person who is talking on a phone to speak louder and more clearly. This makes it easier for the person on the other end of the phone to understand you. However, it also makes it easier for everyone seated near you at the restaurant to notice. If you absolutely must take a call in a restaurant, you should step outside the restaurant or in the lobby for the duration of the call.

If you are a passenger in a car, there is no problem using your phone. However, drivers cannot text (SMS) and drive. It is against the law in Florida and most other states. Furthermore, if you are planning to drive to other parts of America, please plan ahead! In many states, it is illegal to talk on your phone while you are driving. Depending on the state, you could get a very expensive **fine** for doing this. If you plan on talking and driving, the best advice is to get a hands-free device for your phone. This will make it easier to talk and drive at the same time.

Language Question

Question: Is it possible to use 'they' and 'their' as singulars?

Answer: This is a question where there is a lot of disagreement. As you all know, 'they' is a plural pronoun and 'their' is a plural possessive adjective. It is easy to understand the meanings:

Plural Pronoun:

My parents are coming to dinner. **They** are very excited to meet you.

Plural Possessive Adjective:

My sisters made this cake. **Their** cakes are always extremely delicious.

However, what do we do about singulars? Singular pronouns are **he/she** and singular possessive adjectives are **his/her**. What if we do not know the gender of a person?

In extremely formal English you can use the pronoun 'one.' However, in modern English this is almost never used.

What do you think about this sentence?

Please ask the next guest to remove their shoes.

If you use this in spoken English, no one would correct you – most English speakers would probably say the same thing and probably wouldn't notice. However, the above sentence is technically incorrect. Since 'guest' is singular, we would need a singular adjective. There are two ways to solve this problem. We can replace 'their' with 'his or her'. This makes the sentence correct:

Please ask the next guest to remove his or her shoes.

However, this sounds a bit formal and silly for most native English speakers. The best advice is simple: **If you can rewrite the sentence as plural, then you should.** You often use plurals when making generalizations. This would be a great way to write the sentence:

Please ask any remaining guests to remove their shoes.

Try changing these sentences to make them correct (using the space below):

- (1) Each teacher should clean **their** classrooms at the end of the day.
- (2) I'm not sure which student I have an appointment with next. Whoever it is, **they** will have to wait until I finish.



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This week's vocabulary:

breeze (noun) – a light or gentle wind

procrastinate (verb) – to delay or put off doing something until shortly before it is due

homecoming (noun) – a celebration to mark the return of previously graduated alumni to a school/institution (usually a celebration)

upscale (adjective) – sophisticated; very nice; fancy; expensive

fine (noun) – money paid as a penalty for doing something (often breaking a minor law or rule)