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- Language questions
- New students from 13 countries
- Culture question



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# CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



## Welcome from Dr. Kennell

Spring I 2016 at CIES

Greetings everyone!

Welcome to Spring I 2016 session here at CIES. 2016 is going to be a very exciting year here at CIES, and we are **thrilled** that all of you are going to be an important part of our community.

Since you are all new students, these first few weeks may be very different from what you are used to. However, we are truly a family here at CIES, and you will soon become an important part of that family. Everyone has the opportunity to make friends and **acquaintances** that will make your time here very special.

Pay special attention to this Nole News newsletter. You will read it every week during reading class, and it will let you know what is happening not only at CIES and FSU, but it will also teach you important lessons about American culture. This **publication** will also feature grammar questions to help you improve your English language knowledge.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. If you ever have a question or concern, I'm always available to meet with you. On behalf of everyone here at CIES, welcome aboard! ~Dr. Kennell

### Where are you from?

We have new students coming from many different parts of the world. You all that are arriving for Spring I session come from the following countries:

- |                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Burkina Faso         | China    |
| Cuba                 | Ecuador  |
| Kuwait               | Mexico   |
| Peru                 | Thailand |
| Saudi Arabia         | Turkey   |
| Venezuela            | Vietnam  |
| United Arab Emirates |          |

### Bowling Trip on Friday!

Join all of your new CIES friends & family bowling at Crenshaw lanes on **Friday (January 8<sup>th</sup>) at 1pm**. Grab a



bite to eat after class and head on over to the bowling alley right here on campus in the Oglesby student union. There are bowling shoes available at the bowling alley, but be sure to wear socks.

### Culture Question

*Question: How do I make American friends here in Tallahassee?*

*Answer:* This is a very important question! Some students who come to CIES do not spend any time with native English speakers. As a result, they do not learn English quickly and they may have difficulty moving up to higher level classes. There are other students who give themselves lots of opportunities to speak English outside of class and they learn English **very quickly!** Here are some tips to help you find English speakers.

1 – There are CIES activities every week. By attending these events, you will spend time with other CIES students and have fun speaking English while enjoying activities.

2- Sign up for a conversation partner! Our conversation partners meet with you on a regular basis, and they will give you an opportunity to talk about many topics. Also, with your conversation partner, you will get to share things about your country too.

3 – Get to know your teachers! Your teachers are happy to talk to you before and after class. Just by asking your teachers a question every day, you can learn a lot of new vocabulary!

4- Join an organization here at FSU. There are MANY student groups and organizations here on FSU campus. Check out this website:

<https://nolecentral.dsa.fsu.edu/organizations>

You can join a group of students with similar hobbies, and you could also join groups of students who study the same subjects and have the same major as you do. FSU students love making friends with people from other parts of the world.

5- There are **organizations** here in Tallahassee that you can join. There are dancing groups, singing groups, music groups, and groups that gather to play different sports! Also, if you are a religious person, you should consider joining a church, mosque, or temple here in Tallahassee. Sometimes religious communities can give you advice and help with your transition to living in America.

## Language Questions

*Question: In the United States, how are dates and birthdates written?*

Answer: It is important to remember that in the United States, dates are written MONTH, DATE, and then YEAR. In formal writing, you will see March 5, 2015. In shorthand you will see 03/05/2015. Here at CIES we are flexible – we know that many of you are used to writing dates a different way. However, when you write dates on important documents such as an apartment lease or at the bank, it is necessary to write the date in the usual American format.

*Question: What's the difference between "affect" and "effect"?*

A: Both words have similar meanings and are pronounced exactly the same by most English speakers. However, please be careful because "affect" is a verb whereas "effect" is a noun. **Furthermore,**

the common adjective (effective) and adverb (effectively) are spelled like the noun. Don't feel bad if you confuse these words– many native English speakers are confused by this. If you use these words in your writing just be sure to go back and ask yourself if the word is functioning as a noun or verb – taking that little extra time will help you to have effective (©) writing.

- Cloudy weather **affects** my mood – if it is dark and gray outside, I usually feel very sad. [Affects is a verb.]
- Violence has many negative **effects** on society. [Effects is a plural noun.]

## Quote of the Week

**The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live.**  
- Mortimer Adler



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](mailto:cies@admin.fsu.edu)

[www.cies.fsu.edu](http://www.cies.fsu.edu)

[www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU](https://www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU)

Nole News Editor: Andrew Wilson

This week's vocabulary:

**thrilled (adjective)** – really excited and happy about something

**acquaintance (noun)** – any person that you know (you do not use this term for someone you know very well)

**publication (noun)** – something that is printed and given to people (can be a book, magazine, journal, newspaper, etc)

**organization (noun)** – a group of people who work for a common purpose (can be a formal company or an informal group)

**furthermore (adverb)** – additionally (used as a transition to provide more examples or information)