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CIES Nole News

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Happy Birthday America! Celebrating Independence Day

There are many holidays that are celebrated throughout the year in the US. The holidays that are considered the most distinctly American are the 4th of July (Independence Day) and Thanksgiving Day. The 4th of July is when we celebrate the Declaration of Independence, a document that was written to declare that America would be a separate nation from Great Britain (England). This document was presented on July 4, 1776. The British disagreed with the document. A long war was fought between the British and the Americans. Finally, America won the war and George Washington became the first president of the U.S.

The 4th of July holiday is (usually) a long-weekend for most people, so people will go visit their friends and family who live in other places. Activities usually include a cookout/barbeque as well as outdoor events like playing sports and going swimming.

Here at CIES we will be having a 4th of July cookout in honor of Independence Day. We will celebrate the day by spending time together downstairs. There will be American flags, and many people will be wearing red, white, and blue. Take plenty of pictures of this holiday – it would be a great thing to share with your family back home and explain what America is all about.

Getting to Know: Derrick Pollock

If any of you know Angel Rios, then you probably also know his best friend Derrick Pollock. He has been a **vital** part of CIES for the last two years, and many of you have been lucky to have him as an instructor. Derrick grew up in hip Miami, Florida. As a kid,

Derrick was a huge lover of going to the movies – it provided a chance for him to relax and be entertained. He also became an **avid** singer. He was so talented that he even auditioned for American Idol, a national television show. (He used to get nervous singing sometimes, though.) He first came to Tallahassee in 2010 after doing his first year of college in West Palm Beach. Shortly after moving to Tallahassee, he joined a step group



at his church. This was a group that practices dancing and stepping in a fun way. (You have to have **rhythm** to be on a step team!) During his first dance practice, there was a woman that came up and told him to move out of her way. Derrick was surprised by this, but later on he actually started **talking to** this girl. Her name was Jasmyne, and two years later Derrick and Jasmyne were married. Jasmyne is extremely friendly and dynamic. She will often come to CIES events and parties, so you will definitely see her around. Derrick has already earned two degrees at FSU, and he's currently working on his doctorate degree. He's studying curriculum development and foreign & second language acquisition. His wife also works at FSU where she's a mentor for many undergraduate students. One of the other loves of Derrick's life is his beautiful dog, Chance. Derrick most recently won the 'know-your-office mate' competition at the CIES Talent Show in June. Apparently he and Angel Rios spend too much time together.

Holiday Closings

Independence Day (July 4th) is one of the most important holidays in America. As a result, many businesses will be closed. Most businesses that are ordinarily open on Friday will be closed. CIES as well as the entire FSU campus will be closed on Friday (July 3). Banks and the post office will also be closed. The bus routes may not run as usual this weekend, so plan ahead and run your **errands** in advance. Even though some shops and restaurants may be closed, most stores (including those in the mall) will be open. This is a good weekend to buy items because there are many good sales.

CIES Voices Winners

Every session at CIES we have a writing competition. Last session we had nearly 30 students participate in the writing competition. If you competed, you will be able to read your entries on the internet on the CIES homepage. These entries will be available online in a few weeks. Our winners from last session:

Sarah Alsukhayri won 1st place with an essay about the importance of nature and the environment.

Mohamad Douib won 2nd place with his brief philosophy about life and sandwiches.

Your reading teacher or composition teacher may share these writing samples with you. If they don't, be sure to go online and check them out for yourself.

Happy Birthday

Nasser Aldawsari (July 2)
United States of America (July 4)
Lucas Ferreira Correa (July 5)

Culture Question

Question: How do I make American friends?

A: This is a very important question. All of you came to America to study English because America is an English-speaking country. The English classes that you take here at CIES are important, but you can take English classes in almost every country on Earth. It is essential that you give yourself as many opportunities as possible to interact with native English speakers and make American friends. (That's why you came here!) Working with a conversation partner is definitely a good place to start, but there are many other ways to meet people. A few tips: (1) Join a local organization. A religious group at a church or mosque might be a good place to start. Also, there are community groups where people of various interests come together. If you have a unique hobby, google it – chances are there are others in Tallahassee with the same hobby. (2) Consider playing intramural sports. There are many intramural sports leagues at FSU and there are even city sports leagues. If you plan on studying at CIES for a few sessions, this is an EXCELLENT way to make new friends. (3) There are organizations in Tallahassee dedicated to learning languages. You can find people that are interested in learning French

or Arabic (for example) and you can, in turn, make friends and learn more English from them.

Language Question

Question: What is the deal with the prepositions 'at' and 'in'? They can be so confusing!

A: Yes, they can!

To begin with, which of these sentences are correct?

I shopped **in** Walmart this past Saturday.
There was a good sale **in** Kohl's this past weekend.
Tonight I'm going to be **in** my friend's house for a party tomorrow.

Surprisingly, NONE of these are correct. These may be correct in your language, but in English we have a rule guiding preposition use and places.

In a nutshell, the more specific places use the preposition 'at', whereas larger and more general places use the preposition 'in.'

The following sentences are all CORRECT:

I'm spending the weekend **in** Georgia.
She got a job teaching **in** China.
I have been living **in** Tallahassee since 2014.

As you can see above, 'in' can be used with bigger and larger places such as cities, states, and countries. When you're referring to specific places (shops, restaurants, houses), you should use the preposition 'at.'

One (very) confusing exception is rooms. Even though rooms are very specific places, they utilize the preposition 'in'.

Example:

My father is cooking dinner **in** the kitchen.
My grandmother is reading **in** the living room.

But, what about this cellphone conversation:

Kyle: Hey, where are you right now?
Andrew: I'm ___ Best Buy. I need to buy a new computer.

Which one should we use? Well, both are acceptable. If you say "I'm at Best Buy," then you are referring to Best Buy as a specific location. If you say I'm in Best Buy, you are thinking of Best Buy as being a really large room that you are currently in. Most native English speakers would prefer using 'at', and it would probably be better to learn it that way.

Quote of the Week

Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.

- Søren Kierkegaard

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This week's vocabulary:

vital (adjective) – very important; essential; necessary

avid (adjective) – showing great enthusiasm or interest in something (like a hobby)

rhythm (noun) – movement occurring with the pattern of a beat (in music)

'talking to' (idiom/phrase) – sometimes used to refer to the early stages of dating another person

errand (noun) – a short trip with a particular purpose; a chore; a task