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CIES Nole News

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Chillin' at the Rez

Spending time at FSU's outdoor getaway

FSU is very lucky to have a beautiful outdoor lake just a few miles from campus. The FSU Reservation, nicknamed "The Rez", offers the FSU community a **host** of outdoor activities. Swimming, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, and sunbathing are some of the many activities that are available there. Although the Rez is open throughout the year (whenever FSU is in session), it is very popular in the summer as FSU students look for a way to beat the heat!

Here at CIES we have a tradition of going to the Rez every summer. Our next trip will be this Friday after classes at 1pm. We will meet here at CIES, and be transported to the Rez. Be sure to bring sunscreen so you don't get burned. The Rez will provide life jackets, and we are going to rent several canoes. Everyone will enjoy the time spent on the water.

Going Green Works!

In late 2014, the CIES decided to go green (for the environment). We used to offer coffee to our students every morning in Styrofoam cups. However, Styrofoam is a material that is not good for the environment. We started having real coffee cups, and we wash these coffee cups in the dishwasher daily. The best part of going green is that we're saving both money and the environment. We save \$126 every month that we used to spend on cups – this translates to \$1512 annually! Over the course of a year, we are **ensuring** that 36,000 cups don't end up in the landfill. Good job everyone! And, don't forget, please put your used coffee cups in the dishwasher every day.

CIES Voices Winners

Last session CIES started a new writing competition called CIES Voices. Out of several entries, we had a first place and a second place winner. **Abdulaziz Almutawa**



won first place for his submission about the Kaaba in Makkah. The second place submission was **Ahmed Almansour's** essay about soccer

player **salaries**. Abdulaziz received a \$50 gift card for 1st place and Ahmed received a \$25 gift card for 2nd place. There will be another CIES Voices competition at the end of this session. Start thinking about what story you would like to share. Anybody can win!

CIES Video Series

Earlier this year we started making short movies here at CIES to talk about our rules and expectations. These videos are both humorous and informative. CIES student Jack AL-Mazeedi has worked hard on these awesome videos. These videos are all available at:

<http://www.jackalmazeedi.com/cies/>



So far we have seen videos about classroom behavior, cellphones in the

classroom and cleaning up the coffee cups here at CIES. We are still looking for volunteers to be in new movies that we are making. There will be a signup sheet at the front desk for those who are interested in participating. You'll definitely want to check these videos out!

Getting to Know: Ramin Yazdanpanah

The CIES wouldn't be the same without Ramin Yazdanpanah. He has been at CIES for over a decade, and he has created many of the videos that we use in our classes. Tallahassee is Ramin's hometown, but he was actually born in Iran. His father is



Iranian and his mother is Cuban. He moved from Iran to Miami (where there is a large Cuban population)

and then to Tallahassee. Ramin attended FSU as an undergrad. During that time he completed a TESOL certificate working with Dr. Frederick Jenks, who was the **founder** of CIES. After graduating with a degree in international affairs, Ramin had the awesome opportunity to move to Spain for a year and teach English. Over the years he's been able to travel to countries throughout South America, Europe and the Middle East. Over the past five years, Ramin has been in charge of the TEFL certificate program here at CIES. The TEFL certificate program is something that

Ramin is very proud of. This program allows people to prepare to become English teachers. According to Ramin, the program is unique because “everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner.” Many of you have had one of Ramin’s TEFL students as a teaching assistant, tutor, or conversation partner. Ramin says that he “loves showing [CIES] students the diversity of American culture.” This means that it is important for international students to know about all cultures and groups of people in America. Despite his very busy schedule here, Ramin spends a lot of time playing in a band called the Maharajah Flamenco Trio. This band combines traditional European music with instruments from other parts of the world. Ramin plays the didgeridoo, a traditional instrument from Australia. Read here for more information about his band:

<https://www.facebook.com/maharajahtrio>

Happy Birthday

Ramin Yazdanpanah (May 6)
 Mohammed Alqhatani (May 7)
 Henrique Leonardo (May 10)
 Abdullah Alhajerri (May 13)
 Solaiman Abed (May 15)
 Ah-Young Kim (May 18)
 Abdullah Alsammak (May 19)

Friend’s Day Wednesday

This session we are continuing with our Friend’s Day Wednesday tradition. Here at CIES we are a family, and it is important that we get to know as many people as possible. Every Wednesday

during lunch, join your teachers and **fellow** classmates to enjoy lunch and conversation downstairs.

Culture Question

Question: Is Mother’s Day an important holiday in the US?

A: Yes! Mother’s Day was a holiday celebrated this past weekend. Although this is not an official holiday, it is a day that has become an important part of American life. People buy their mothers special gifts and usually try to have a special meal with their mother. Some people will even travel from far away to see their mom. Additionally, a man will often give a special gift to his wife on Mother’s Day to thank her for the many things she does for the family. Even if this holiday isn’t celebrated in your country, you should make a point to call your mother and give her your appreciation, especially if you forgot to on Sunday!

Language Question

Question: When should I use commas in the middle of the sentence?

Answer: Commas are difficult for native English speakers. There are times when it is difficult to determine if you use a comma or not, but there are a few simple rules. This week we’ll talk about subordinate clauses – Rule #2.

2. Complex sentences have two parts – an independent clause and a dependent clause. An independent clause can stand alone as a complete thought. A dependent clause cannot stand alone. A dependent clause

usually starts with a subordinating conjunction. *After, if, once, since, until, when, and while* are just a few examples of subordinating conjunctions.

Here’s the tricky part – if a sentence STARTS with a dependent clause, you use a comma. If a sentence ends with a dependent clause, you do not use a comma.

COMMA ☺

- If I fall asleep in class, my teacher will probably be upset.
- When I go to Copenhagen in August, I will enjoy a few **mild** weather days.

NO COMMA:

- My teacher will be upset if I speak another language in class.
- I will get to visit the Mermaid statue when I visit Copenhagen in August.

Question: What’s the difference between everyone and everybody?

There really isn’t a difference between these two words. They are synonyms. However, some people consider everyone to be a little more formal.

Quote of the Week

I highly recommend getting older! There’s less tendency to people-please.

–Alanis Morissette



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This week’s vocabulary:

host (noun) – a multitude or great number of persons or things

ensure (verb) – to make sure or certain; to secure or guarantee

salary (noun) – an amount of money paid to a person for work

founder (noun) – a person who establishes (creates) a group or organization

fellow (adjective) – belonging to the same class or group; united by the same job or status

mild (adjective) – not cold, severe, or extreme