Have you ever thought about going out of your comfort zone? It may sound difficult, but it is the best choice for your life. When things are harder, you can reach your real potential. This is my opinion based on my experience learning English at the ELI.

My life has changed since I moved to the United States in a good way. I am very grateful for the experiences I have had. One of them is studying at this amazing institute. I started in spring 2014. I have learned more than I thought I would here. You not only learn English but also meet people from all over the world. For example, at the ELI you can meet people from China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Spain, Russia, Honduras, and for sure Venezuela.

I am delighted to be part of this institute because it is demanding. Don’t be alarmed! There is more to the ELI than studying. While you learn, you have fun with the various activities that the staff prepares for you. In addition, you can learn about the culture and religion of different countries. Also, you can talk with native English speakers. For example, the professors at the ELI are wonderful people. They not only teach you English but also care about you.

To sum up, if you want to acquire more knowledge, joining this institute is the best way to improve yourself. You are going to have fun and will learn more than you think. Coming to study English in another country is a good challenge for yourself.
My name is Kristina, and I am from Russia. I am studying at the ELI at FIU. I love studying here because it has the best teachers, atmosphere, facilities, and students. I can compare it to other institutes because I studied English before in other schools. I plan to get a master degree in finance at FIU. I am interested in studying here because I plan to find work at a bank. Maybe I can have my own business in Miami, which will connect to my business in Russia. Nowadays, it is very important to know how to speak English because it is an international language. Sometimes I have to communicate with people who speak English, and learning English gives me more confidence in dealing with them. Of course, I have met a lot of people at the ELI with whom I will continue to be friends. It is very fascinating to meet new people from different countries and learn new cultures, traditions and interests.

Snapchat is a new application used to send pictures and videos to all of your friends without saving them to your phone. Another feature of this application is that pictures are deleted after a certain amount of seconds. Here are some of the pictures from Level 6 Grammar.

Before coming to the ELI, I expected to improve my English, but now I realize I came here to learn it, and not just to improve my writing, grammar and reading. I used to write essays and paragraphs without structure. Now, I have learned that whatever I have to write needs to make sense because someone else is going to read it. Grammar is more than what I want now is to study filling in the blanks on a test; it is about understanding the logical meaning of a topic. Because it can limit my knowledge, I don’t want to do better in a language, but now I realize I came here to learn it, and not just to improve my writing, grammar and reading. I used to write essays and paragraphs without structure. Now, I have learned that whatever I have to write needs to make sense because someone else is going to read it. Grammar is more than what I want now is to study filling in the blanks on a test; it is about understanding the logical meaning of a topic. Because it can

Featured Snapchats of the ELI

Student Spotlight: Kristina Sokova

Student Spotlight: Berta Garces
My whole experience so far has been absolutely amazing. I could not have been more fortunate. The people I’m surrounded by at school, my friends and professors are very inviting and welcoming. I have learned about so many things that I had never heard of before. All of my professors are very helpful and really enjoy teaching us. They are also committed to our education, and for that reason, the classes are so didactical.

I am delighted to say that I study at the ELI. There are many factors that brought me to Miami, among them, the opportunity to study English from a different perspective. I have had the opportunity to study with people from all over the world. As an international student from Venezuela, I have valued the opportunity to study in such a rich and diverse environment. It really was a great semester, and it’s guaranteed to leave me with life long experiences.

Valeria Rocco Lo Presti

Student Spotlight: Valeria Rocco Lo Presti

Photo Gallery: Santa's Enchanted Forest
What does it mean to be an “adult”? I used to think I knew what it meant; however, now, I am not so sure. When I was a little girl, I would look around me with disgust and smugness at how “childish” all the other children of seven years of age were acting. I used to dream of one day being able to do all the things I saw the women of my family do: make my own money, have a professional career, buy designer clothes, travel the world, come and go as I please: everything I thought “being a woman” meant.

Now that I am, in essence, a woman, I find myself still surrounded by children. Oh, they disguise themselves well behind an advanced degree, the age stated on their license, a mustache here, a wrinkle there, but they and I both know that under all that camouflage, they are still nothing more than little children playing at being adults.

They have successfully obtained the biological requirements of what being an adult entails but have failed miserably at the mental and emotional requirements.

As I have grown, I realize that it takes more than a mustache to make you a man, and more than feminine curves to make you a woman. What about dignity, integrity, responsibility, self-discipline, self-control? The ability to delay gratification until the goal is won?

Realizing maturity is an ongoing process of self-development and self-awareness. What makes one an adult is the ability to be responsible for one’s actions and having the inner ability to make oneself do what is right because one knows it to be true. Adults do not complain about working to reach their goals. They enjoy and learn from the journey because they know that it is a part of their development and is necessary for advancement of their goal. What does that mean for you as an ELI student?

Here at the ELI, we treat you as adults. When you are an adult, no one has to make you do your homework, come to class, or study because you know that you have come to school with a purpose, and you have already made up your mind to do whatever is necessary to achieve it. You come to class on time. When you miss class, you take it upon yourself to inquire about what you have missed, and when you need to make it up.

As an ELI instructor, my goals is to help my students reach adulthood with integrity and fulfill their purpose within the global community.

After much thought, I have come to my own definition of what being an adult means: Taking pride in and being responsible for your life.