Future quarter dates- “Winter Quarter 2014”
January 6th to March 21st

President’s Day- An American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February (Feb. 17, 2014). Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called “Washington’s Birthday” by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22—Washington’s actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents’ Day after it was moved as part of 1971’s Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation’s workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents’ Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present. –History.com
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
(Feb. 12, 2014)
Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States, serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln led the United States through its greatest constitutional, military, and moral crisis—the American Civil War—preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, strengthening the national government and modernizing the economy. Reared in a poor family on the western frontier, Lincoln was self-educated, and became a country lawyer, a Whig Party leader, Illinois state legislator during the 1830s, and a one-term member of the United States House of Representatives during the 1840s. He promoted rapid modernization of the economy through banks, canals, railroads and tariffs to encourage the building of factories. Lincoln's death was the first assassination of a U.S. president and sent the nation into mourning. Lincoln has been consistently ranked both by scholars and the public as one of the greatest U.S. presidents. holidays.net

Abraham Lincoln
The 16th U.S. President
1861-1865

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS-
Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9, 2014. Don't forget to set your clocks "AHEAD" One Hour the night before.

Important
IELC Winter 2014 Dates

Winter

January 6th 2014
New Student Testing
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
New Student Orientation
1:00 – 3:00 PM

January 7th 2014
New and Returning Student Orientation
8:30 AM – 12:00 noon
Lunch
12:00-1:00
Campus Tour
1:00 – 2:00 PM

January 8th 2014
First Day of Winter Classes
8:30 AM-3:15 PM

January 20th 2014
No School
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
The Effects of Keeping Dogs as Pet

Nowadays, many people all over the world tend to have pets, especially dogs. The main reason above all is their loyalty. Dogs take a lot of interest in people who takes care of them and give them plenty of love. Pet dogs are usually called a “man's best friend.” Because we keep dogs as a part of our family, our lives have become wealthier. Dogs produce less loneliness, a source of exercise and safety.

One important effect of having dogs is no loneliness. No matter how low or lonely you are, dogs will always be there for you. Whether you want to pour your heart out to them or tell them your secrets, you know it is all safe with them. Dogs give you unconditional love and are always faithful. Because dogs are playful, you can play with them without feeling loneliness. You do not get bored being with dogs.

Keeping dogs also gives us a lot of exercise. We want someone who will accompany us for walks. Dogs can be great companions and will happily go out for walks, at times even urging you for a walk, when you are too tired, thereby keeping you active and fit. Other activities related to dogs like feeding, bathing, playing and cleaning are also good ways to exercise. As a result, you can spend a healthy life.

Finally, your dogs can protect you. Having dogs at home is especially good because they also double up as caretakers. If you go outside, your dogs will stay and keep your house safe. Because dogs are very sensitive of strangers, they will bark at strange persons. Probably, the robbers will run away because dogs are very noisy. No burglar alarm can be better than dogs at home.

To summarize, keeping dogs has three main positive effects on us: no loneliness, a lot of exercise and safety. Because dogs are loyal and faithful, they will make your life wealthier. Dogs are a member of your family, so you can enjoy your life with them. - Mana Motoi- Japan
“Culture Shock”

You’ve probably heard about culture shock and maybe you’ve already experienced it when traveling. Your adjustment will be even more complex now that you are studying, living and settling into a different environment. Your eventual recovery from culture shock can have many positive effects, such as greater self-confidence and sensitivity to others. You will feel more flexible and objective about your experience, learning to accept parts of the new culture for yourself while cherishing your own culture traditions. – studyusa.com

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 20th, 2014

Who was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Each year on the third Monday of January schools, federal offices, post office and banks across America close as we celebrate the birth, the life and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929, never backed down in his stand against racism. He dedicated his life to achieving equality and justice for all Americans of all colors. King believed that peaceful refusal to obey unjust law was the best way to bring about social change.

King experienced racial prejudice early in life. Segregation was both law and custom in the South and other parts of America. King was arrested several times during his lifetime. In 1960, he joined black college students in a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter. Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy interceded to have King released from jail, an action that is credited with helping Kennedy to be elected President.

We reserve Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought. It’s a time to remember his fight for the freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples. – nationalgeographic.com

The IELC office will be CLOSED the following dates:

November 28th & 29th
December 25th thru January 1st

Happy Holidays
VALENTINE'S DAY  
(February 14th, 2014)

Valentine's Day is an extremely popular festival in United States of America. People in US observe a holiday on this day to honor St Valentine and to express love to dear ones. Valentine’s Day festival has been commercialized to a great extent in US. It is estimated that Valentine’s Day is the major card and gift giving festival in US. Popular gifts exchanged on the day include cards, fresh flowers- mainly roses, chocolates and candies. These days, people also complement these with other gifts of love to express affection and love.

- stvalentinesday.org

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ DAY  
(March 31, 2014)

Cesar Chavez Day is observed in the United States. It celebrates the birthday of Cesar Estrada Chaves and it serves as a tribute to his commitment to social justice and respect for human dignity.

Who was Cesar Chavez?

Cesar Estrada Chavez, was the late founder and president of the United Farm Workers of America, he had a deep confidence in the ability of people to move mountains of injustice. Under his leadership, farm workers moved Agribusiness Mountain and won the first union contracts for agricultural workers in the grape fields. The Mexican labor leader was known as a humble man who gave of himself to the cause of farm workers and all workers. He championed the cause of equality for Latinos like no one else. His courage in the face of some of our nation’s most powerful industries inspired generations of all races and nationalities to fight the good fight. - wikipedia.org
Divina Pastora’s Day

Do you know that in Venezuela one person has given up his life for an entire state? A long time ago a terrible disease called “Cholera” invaded Barquisimeto, a state in Venezuela. Everybody was dying because the cure did not exist. When the priest Jose Macario Yepez got infected, he pleaded to Divina Pastora, an apparition of Mary, God’s mother, to let him be the last one to die. After he died, she granted his last wish fulfilling the miracle. Since then, Divina Pastora’s Day became one of the most important holidays celebrated in Venezuela to make new promises in which we walk to the Cathedral of Barquisimeto, and spend time praying with family and friends.

Divina Pastora’s Day is a beautiful, old tradition that takes place in the state of Barquisimeto, Venezuela. This tradition begins with the second largest procession, in Latin America. On January 14 of every year, Divina Pastora’s statue is dressed differently by a local designer. Every year she is carried from the church in the village of Santa Rosa to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Barquisimeto. This route takes about five miles of slow walking. The last mass is celebrated at 10:00 am outside of the village, and the procession begins at the end of it. The long walk lasts closely to seven hours taking short stops on the way, culminating in the largest street in all Venezuela called, “Avenida Venezuela,” and with different cultural and musical acts full of grace, fervor and hope.

A massive quant of people assists in the procession, such as talented priests, praying and singing like it was a party in heaven, and enthusiastic believers of Maria wearing a wide variety of costumes allusive to Jesus or Maria and making promises to her or doing sacrifices. Some promises might be, walking barefoot, cutting one’s hair or loading crosses. In exchange they hope Divina Pastora will perform a miracle like curing someone of some kind of disease, like she did with the priest in the nineteenth century. There are countless street sellers with an immense variety of candies, drinks, and also all kinds of religious figures that everybody buys. That day, you can feel the fresh sweet air in your face while you are eating delicious, citrus fruits and drinking cold, energy drinks. It is a perfect day to enjoy with family and friends, and to hear the people who lament for the happiness of the moment, the loud noises that come from the fireworks, the music and all the praying the faithful do as they follow Divina Pastora.

This procession for the devotion of the people in Barquisimeto is inspiriting. All the people in Venezuela have so much gratitude for Divina Pastora for saving the city from the cholera outbreak that occurred in the city. For all these reasons, the beauty of the miracle, the promises that it brings, the food and the music, this is my favorite holiday in Venezuela. - Stephanie Avendano- Venezuela
Khmer New Year in Cambodia

There are a lot of festivals in Cambodia. For example, The Water Festival is celebrated every year by having a boat race in the river in front of the Royal Palace. The Moon Festival is celebrated when the moon is full. Pchom Ben Day is celebrated for the people who are dead. There are many beautiful celebrations in Cambodia, but my favorite is Khmer New Year, a day to say good bye to the old year and welcome to New Year.

In my country we celebrate Khmer New Year for three days on April 13th, 14th, and 15th every year. All students and workers have time off from work and study for three or four days during Khmer New Year. First, before the Khmer New Year, my parents go to the market and buy a lot of decorations for the house to change old decorate to new one. My family cleans and decorates my house for good luck. Then on the first day of Khmer New Year my family stays at home. My mother cooks a lot of Khmer Food and the food tastes delicious. My favorite food in Khmer New Year day is Kari because this food tastes sweet and spicy. I am as hungry as a loin because I like to eat Kari so much. Then my family enjoys lunch together at home. On the second day, we cook more food and go to the pagoda, a Buddhist temple, and bring the food for the monks who live in the pagoda. Bringing the food for the monks means we are offering food for our relatives that died a long time ago. It is a Cambodian culture. On the last day, young people have to take a shower for their parents meaning we want our parents to have good health, long life, and good luck in their life. Sometimes we buy a present for them because they took care of us since birth. After that, we hang out with family or friends in the evening. We go out to have dinner together in the restaurant. Sometimes my family goes out of town. We go to Phnom Penh City to visit our relatives there. We have a lot of fun in the Khmer New Year days.

I like Khmer New Year because I have time off from studying and I can hang out with my family and my friends. Now Khmer New Year is very important for Cambodian people because we say good bye to the old year and welcome the New Year. It is means the bad luck goes away and the good luck come in to all the family. That is why Cambodian people celebrate it every year. - Lena Khem, Cambodia
Campus- The location of a university, college, or school's main buildings. U.S. campuses are known for their ample size, architecture, landscaping, and numerous student locales. (studyusa.com)

GPA (grade point average) - a numerical measure of academic achievement based upon a computation figured from the number of credits and grade points earned per course. (studyusa.com)

Campus Lingo
Common Words and Phrases Used by American Students

Ace- To do very well; receive the grade of an “A”. Example: “I feel like I aced my math test!”

Cramming- Intensive memorization in a short period of time-usually done by a student preparing for a school examination. Example: “I'm always stuck cramming for that professor's class”.

Credits- A unit that gives weighting to the value, level, or time requirements of an academic course. Various systems of credits exist: one per course, on per hour/week in class, on per hour/week devoted to the course (including homework), etc.

Elective- An academic course chosen by the student from a set of options, as opposed to a required course.

Major- A College or university student’s main field of specialization during his or her undergraduate studies.

Minor- Secondary focus of a student's studies.

Term- a division of an academic year, the time during which a college or university holds classes. These divisions may be called terms, semesters, quarters, or trimesters, depending on the institution.

What's up? Or Wassup?- An informal expression meaning “What are you doing?”, “How are you?” or “What is happening?”

### IELTS

IELTS is the world’s most popular high-stakes English language proficiency test. In 2009, over 1.4 million IELTS tests were given across the globe. IELTS results are recognized by over 6,000 universities and colleges worldwide - 2,500 of which are in the USA, including all Ivy League colleges. The IELTS test is easily accessible, with availability in over 130 countries. IELTS is the original integrated test, assessing your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. As preferred by many candidates, the IELTS test is paper-based. It is also the only test that offers you a one-on-one interview, so that you can demonstrate your speaking skills in a real life situation. The IELTS test takes 2 hours 44 minutes to complete and your result is valid for two years.

www.ielts.org

--- International Student Guide to the USA 2010 Edition

### TOEFL

The TOEFL® test measures your ability to use and understand the English language as it is read, written, heard and spoken in the university classroom. The test, often referred to as the TOEFL iBT™ test, is administered 30-40 times a year at more than 4,500 secure testing sites around the world. It is accepted by more than 7,500 universities, agencies and other institutions in 130 countries, including the top universities in the U.K, Canada, and the U.S. In order for the TOEFL iBT™ to measure how well you read, listen, speak and write in English, and how well you use these skills together, you’ll be asked to integrate these skills for the test. For example, you may read a passage or listen to a lecture, and then write or speak about what you learned. Test fees range from US$150 to US$225, depending on the test location.

Registration is available 3-4 months before the test date, so be sure to register early to reserve your seat. Your scores will be posted online within 2 weeks after the test date. They are also mailed to the universities or institutions you selected. ETS offers several test preparation resources to help students prepare for test day. These include the bestselling test-prep book The Official Guide to the TOEFL® Test, and TOEFL® Practice Online a complete practice test that simulates the real TOEFL iBT™ test. To learn more about the TOEFL® test and to register, visit www.toeflgoanywhere.org

--- International Student Guide to the USA 2010 Edition

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**Don’t Forget To Bring Your Passport When Taking The TOEFL - It Is Required!!**
**Things to Do in Bakersfield**

**Bakersfield Museum of Art**  
1930 R ST., Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone 661-323-7219

**Food, Music, Dancing and Museum**  
2800 Buck Owens Blvd, Bakersfield 93308  
Phone (661) 328-7560

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**Movie Theaters in Bakersfield**

- **Edwards Bakersfield Stadium 14**  
9000 Ming Ave, Bakersfield, 93311

- **Bakersfield Valley Plaza 16**  
2000 Wible Road, Bakersfield, 93304

- **Bakersfield Movies 6**  
4200 California Ave., Bakersfield, 93309

- **Maya Bakersfield 16 Cinemas**  
1000 California Ave., Bakersfield, 93304

- **Regency Theatres East Hills Mall**  
3100 Mall View Road, Bakersfield, 93306

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**Indoor Go-Cart Raceway**  
6901 District Blvd, Bakersfield 93313  
661-859-1294

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**Bowling**

**AMF SOUTHWEST LANES**  
3610 Wible Rd, Bakersfield  
(661) 834-2695

**AMF WESTCHESTER LANES**  
1819 30th St, Bakersfield  
(661) 324-4966

**AMF Bowling Centers**  
3610 Wible Rd, Bakersfield  
(661) 834-2695
IELC Fall 2013 Demographics

During the “Fall Quarter 2013” the IELC had a total of 35 students from 12 different countries.

China - 2
Cambodia - 2
Yemen - 2
Saudi Arabia-10
Japan - 6
Chile - 1
Mexico - 2

South Korea - 1
Venezuela - 5
Thailand - 2
Colombia - 1
Chile - 1
Burkina Faso - 1

List of Good Study Habits

Go To Class: Always, always attend class. You don’t know what you will miss from your next lesson if you are not present in class. Attending class could save you from missing out on a “surprise” test or clues to your mid-term exam.

NO Cramming: Trying to get the most of any subject into your brain right before a test is not going to work. Instead try to study a couple of hours a day and be sure to be rested.

Read Before Class: Reading today’s lesson before each of your classes gives you an advantage over the other students. The information will be fresh in your brain and you will be able to understand better what is going on in class.

Prioritize Your Tasks: The student with good study habits prioritizes what is most important and starts working on the project way before it’s due.

Do Your Homework At School: Doing your homework at school is more comfortable and doable than waiting to get home a do it. Once you are at home you want to rest, right? Well, try completing your homework before getting home.

Talk to Your Teachers: Teachers are not that bad, in fact they could help you pass the subject if you talk to them and explain what the areas on which you are having trouble are.

Join Study Groups: There are many ways of getting most of your studies; one of them is joining study groups. These study groups are super beneficial to get most of your questions answered.

Beat Procrastination: Procrastination is a major issue for students but once you get passed it you will be more productive.

Clutter Free Study Space: Always make sure to study in an area that is free of other books, papers and distractions. Clean up your table and make sure you only have what you need to work on in front of you. Nothing else!

Prepare For Tests Ahead Of Time: If a test is coming up in two weeks then start reading your material today. Read one or two pages daily... when test time comes you will just know the test or exam is nailed!

Know Your Schedule: Become familiar with your schedule. Be aware of what’s coming up next, classes, tests, exams, projects. This will keep you on track big time.squidoo.com