

Are you looking for a December assignment that's a little different, but still fits right in to curriculum expectations? "Spell a wide range of commonly used words correctly", "Give evidence of an expanding vocabulary in their writing", and "Contribute and work constructively in groups" are just a few of the expectations that you can meet with the assignments you'll find here.

The following three word lists can be used as spelling lists with a difference. They can be given to the class on a Monday, with a dictation planned for the following Monday. They can also be used without any dictation at the end, if that is your style. Give the class one or two of your Language Arts periods to work on them in pairs, or groups, since the assignments lend themselves readily to peer tutoring. Link them to Visual Arts by challenging the students to create their own "Wordart" by working a list word into an illustration in an unusual and visually appealing manner. For instance, they might draw an angel whose body is based in the letter "q". The head and face would be in the round top of the letter, while the "an" on one side, and the "el" on the other side would become the wings. Read that description to them and see if someone is willing /able to sketch it quickly on the board, or on paper. Include yourself in the challenge!

Make a deal with the class, for a little added excitement about the dictation. (Yes, I said "excitement!") The first student who can spell the whole list correctly, (with no second tries) to you before Friday, can give the list to their classmates in dictation on the next Monday, and not have to write it themselves. Let the students work in pairs and give the dictation to each other. They could also do the marking for each other, but with an added fillip – if you scan their marking quickly and find they have mis-marked any word, they will have to write that word a dozen times on the board, in Christmas green or red chalk. Do you have, (or can you find) a poster showing the American Sign Language alphabet? Kids enjoy the challenge of working out how to sign their list words. If the poster is placed on a classroom wall, it lends itself readily to the different learning styles of students. Visual learners love having the words literally put into their hands, and having the students check each other can really help them to learn the correct spellings.

The research and the writing components of these assignments make them into a good source of evaluation opportunities for you. Of course, you can also feel free to adapt them to the needs of your particular class, and present them with your own creative touches.

Enjoy!



HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS!

w r a p p i n g
e v e r g r e e n
p u r c h a s e s
g i f t s
s p e n d i n g
s h o p p i n g
f e a s t i n g
m i s t l e t o e
h o l l y
s p i c e s
p r e s e n t s
g e n e r a t i o n s
w r e a t h
d e c o r a t i o n s
o r n a m e n t

1. Write the singular nouns beside their plural forms.
2. a) Which nouns are plural? (b) Write the singular form for each of the words from part (a).
3. Write the list in reverse alphabetical order, using green for the vowels and red for the consonants.
4. Write each word again, and label it as a part of speech.
5. A **consonant blend** is two or more consonants that are pronounced together as one sound. Which words begin with a consonant blend?
6. Which words have doubled their final consonant before adding a suffix?
7. Write the **infinitive** for each of the verb forms ending in "*ing*".
8. (a) Which words contain only one syllable? (b) Write the word with six syllables **fifteen** times.
9. Which adjectives can be made from the roots of these words?
*generations *decorations *spices
10. (a) What type of word is **evergreen**? (b) Write two more compound words using **ever**.
11. Use ten list words in separate, **interesting** sentences.
12. Research a particular Christmas tradition from the country of **your** origin. Mom or Dad could provide primary source research.
13. Search for one tradition that you think is interesting from any other culture, and write about it in a paragraph, being sure to explain what you find interesting about it.



Answer Key: **Holly Jolly**

1. wrapping wrappings, evergreen evergreens, wreath wreaths, ornament ornaments
2. (a) purchases, gifts, spices, generations, decorations (b) purchase, gift, spice, generation, decoration
3. wreath, wrapping, spices, spending, shopping, purchases, presents, ornament, mistletoe, holly, gifts, generations, feasting, evergreen, decorations
4. wreath noun (“e” must be added to make the verb form)
wrapping noun (for advanced students, this is also the present participle form of the verb)
spices plural noun
spending noun & present participle
shopping noun & present participle
purchases plural noun
presents plural noun
ornament noun
mistletoe noun
holly noun
gifts plural noun
generations plural noun
feasting noun & present participle
evergreen adjective & noun
decorations plural noun
5. wrapping, spending, shopping, spices, presents, wreath
6. wrapping & shopping
7. to wrap, to spend, to shop, to feast
8. wreath (b) There is NO word with six syllables!
9. *generations generational *decoration decorative *spices spicy
10. *Evergreen* is a compound word. (b) evermore & everlasting

Answers for #'s 11, 12 and 13 will vary. # 12 can be used as practise in how to conduct and record an interview, with the results presented orally to the class, perhaps with accompanying artefacts and/or pictures brought from home. It can also be done on a Bristol board for display out in the hall, which will ensure bright and seasonal viewing for others (ie. parents). #13 can also provide an opportunity for students to interview each other.