

*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!*

# Let's Go Skiing!

Nordic Alpine recreational  
competitive bindings slalom

- a. Write the list in alphabetical order.
- b. Which words have two syllables?
- c. Write the word that has the most syllables beside its alphabet coding.  
(A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, etc. Be sure to separate each number with a comma.)
- d. Copy a ski meaning from the dictionary for each word.
- e. Which words contain diphthongs? (two vowels together that make only one vowel sound, like OU in house)
- f. Draw the ASL symbols for each of the letters in the shortest word.
- g. Research the etymology for any two of the words.
- h. Research a current, or past champion from either type of skiing, and write what you learned about what made them a champion.

