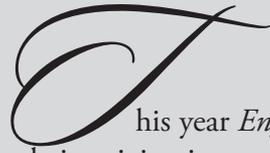


# Editor's Note

---



This year *English Teaching Forum* celebrates American sports—sports that have their origins in or that have a special association with the United States (even though some of the sports are popular in other countries, too). Featuring one sport in each issue, we will present them in the season when they are played in the United States. So, we start off with a winter sport—snowboarding.

Snowboarding has the reputation of being a sport for young daredevils. Snowboarders brave the cold, negotiate snowy (and sometimes icy) terrain, challenge gravity, and often perform dangerous stunts, seeming to ignore the potential for injury. Snowboarders are rugged athletes.

For me, snowboarding is purely a spectator sport. I have never been on a snowboard, or even come close. I prefer to watch snowboarding on television in the warmth of my home. It's exciting to watch snowboarders whishing through the snow or flying high in the air performing their acrobatic tricks. And the slow-motion replay of television makes it easier to appreciate all the twists and rotations of the more complicated tricks.

Some of those tricks have interesting names—part of the vocabulary that has sprung up around snowboarding. It seems we can identify a special vein of ESP—English for *Snowboarding Purposes*. I gave myself a crash course in the lexicon. Now let me try to speak a little “snowboarder.” Here goes...

“Although I secretly would like to be an *airdog* who can do *broadway* tricks, I am not even a *noob*. But if I did try snowboarding, I would probably be a *botwoker*, and no doubt I'd experience some *face plants* and maybe even a *yard sale*. But I hope I'd avoid a *fraggle*.”

Okay, for those of you who didn't understand that, here's a list of definitions:

*airdog* (n.) = a snowboarder who does aerial tricks most of the time

*broadway* (adj.) = really good, cool

*noob* (n.) = a new snowboarder

*botwoker* (n.) = a noob who can't remain upright

*face plant* (n.) = a forward fall that “plants” the snowboarder's face in the snow

*yard sale* (n.) = a bad fall that knocks off a snowboarder's gloves, goggles, glasses, etc.

*fraggle* (n.) = an injurious accident in which two snowboarders crash their boards together

If you want to learn more about snowboarding slang, there are many sources of vocabulary on the Internet. If you just want to learn about the sport, read our feature article. And watch for coverage of snowboarding at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February.