Students can learn by listening with this activity. Tape-record yourself reading and spelling each week’s spelling words. Put the tape, along with a tape player, next to a class computer. Have students practice their spelling words by listening to the tape, then typing the words. Students can print their lists and check them against a written spelling list.

Word Bank Words
friend smile welcome
apple chalkboard playground
teacher
crisp paper
cider school

Students will create sound sensations with these creative poems. Explain to students that some words, such as bang and zip, make the sounds of what they mean. These words are called onomatopoeia. Have students generate a list of onomatopoeic (ah nuh mah tuh PE ik) words for September, then write onomatopoeic poems with the words.

All About Me
Build self-esteem by having students write tributes to themselves in which they name good things about themselves and why people like them.

Getting to Know You
Help students get to know each other by interviewing a partner about things they like. The list may include things students like to eat, wear, watch, do, etc. Then, have students write paragraphs describing these things. Encourage students to share their work with others as a way to get to know each other.

Letters to New Students
Start the new school year with memories from the previous year. Students can write letters to students starting school in their previous grade. In the letters, students can explain things they can look forward to during the year and important things for them to remember as they start the new year.

Back-to-School
Up early
Bus ride
Friends everywhere
Paper, pencil
Story time!

Two-Word Poems
Double up and get it right! Assign each student a partner and have them proofread each other’s papers for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Allow different partners to work together throughout the year.

My Ultimate Playground
A 500-foot slide? Swings that can swing into outerspace? Have students write directions for how to design the ultimate playground. What would they include on the playground? What materials would things be made of? Then, have each student illustrate his imaginary ultimate playground to display with his writing.

Editing Partners
Double up and get it right! Assign each student a partner and have them proofread each other’s papers for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Allow different partners to work together throughout the year.

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