Choose the category of cards that you want to use, or shuffle all of the cards together. (Note: The cards are color-coded according to their general topic: blue—home, red—school, green—favorites, yellow—things to do, purple—places, and orange—all about me.) Show the Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™ to students: Explain that these cards feature questions to help them learn more about each other and to practice their listening and speaking skills. Model the way you would like students to answer the questions by choosing a card, reading the question, and answering it yourself. Then choose one or more students to answer the same question. Model good listening skills by listening to each student’s response and asking questions to expand their ideas. Once a student has answered the question, have them choose another student to answer the same question and have a short conversation about their answers.

Place the cards in the center of the circle or on a table and ask for a volunteer to take a card, read the question, and answer it. Once a student has answered the question, have him or her choose another student to answer the same question and have a short conversation about their answers. Explain that they will be using the cards throughout the year to share and learn more about each other. Have students store the A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible in a folder for reference.

## Beginning-of-the-Year Icebreaker
Divide your class into groups of four or five, asking students to bring their A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible to their group to help them remember good listening and speaking skills. Shuffle the cards, and give each group some cards from an assortment of categories. Have a student in a group draw a card and explain the question. Choose a group member to ask the question and then choose one or more students in each group to answer the question. Discuss the answers and have a short conversation about their answers. The students respond, and then initiate a conversation with them about the answer.

Choose the category of card that you want to use, or shuffle all of the cards together. (Note: The cards are color-coded according to their general topic: blue—home, red—school, green—favorites, yellow—things to do, purple—places, and orange—all about me.) Show the Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™ to students: Explain that these cards feature questions to help them learn more about each other and to practice their listening and speaking skills. Model the way you would like students to answer the questions by choosing a card, reading the question, and answering it yourself. Then choose one or more students to answer the same question. Model good listening skills by listening to each student’s response and asking questions to expand their ideas. Once a student has answered the question, have them choose another student to answer the same question and have a short conversation about their answers. Explain that they will be using the cards throughout the year to share and learn more about each other. Have students store the A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible in a folder for reference.

## Partner Talk and Share
Divide students into pairs, reminding students to use the good speaking and listening techniques you discussed at the start of class and to talk with their partners.

Introducing the Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™
Before introducing the Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™, make copies of the A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible to have ready to distribute to students. Lead a discussion with students about the qualities of good speakers and good listeners, asking questions to expand their ideas. Then ask students what they think good speakers do and do not do.

Congratulations on your purchase of these Really Good Stuff® Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™—an engaging way for students to get to know one another by sharing things about themselves and to strengthen listening and speaking skills. Before introducing the Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™, make copies of the A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible to distribute to students. Lead a discussion with students about the qualities of good speakers and good listeners, asking questions to expand their ideas. Then ask students what they think good speakers do and do not do.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
• 60 Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™
• Plastic Storage Box
• This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

All activity guides can be found online:
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1-800-366-1920
www.reallygoodstuff.com
Group students with common ground and give each pair two or three Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™. Tell students that one student is to draw a Card and read the question to his or her partner. The other student then answers the question. Encourage pairs to extend their conversations by asking additional questions related to the question. Once one partner is finished speaking, have the other partner answer the question as well.

After all partners have finished talking, ask volunteers to come forward to talk about what they learned about their partner. Remind both speakers and listeners to think about and use the good listening and speaking skills they learned during each other’s dialogue. The completed reproducibles then have the names of partners on the reproducible. Then the pairs are to draw a picture or write several sentences telling a couple of interesting things they learned about each other during the conversation. These items are then displayed along with any additional information that the volunteer learned about the partner. The student then is to draw a Card and read the question. Encourage pairs to extend their conversations by asking additional questions. Once one partner is finished speaking, have the other partner answer the question as well.

Partner Talk and Write

Copy and distribute the Shuffle and Share Partner Writing Reproducible. Divide students into pairs, and give each pair two or three Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™. Ask one student to draw a Card and read the question to his or her partner. Instruct students that the partner is to answer the question. Encourage pairs to extend their conversations by asking additional questions related to the question on the Card. Once one partner is finished speaking, indicate that the other partner is to answer the question. After all partners have finished talking, tell them that each student is to write his or her partner’s name on the reproducible. Then the pairs are to draw a picture or write several sentences telling a couple of interesting things they learned about each other during the conversation. These items are then displayed along with any additional information that the volunteer learned about the partner.

Partner Writing Brainstorm

Make and distribute the Shuffle and Share Writing Ideas Reproducible. Select a Card, and read it to the class. Have students discuss with a student next to them their answer to the question, using good listening and speaking skills as they converse. Then ask several students to share their answers to the question. Encourage pairs to extend their conversations by asking additional questions related to the question on the Card. Once one partner is finished speaking, indicate that the other partner is to answer the question. After all partners have finished talking, ask volunteers to come forward to talk about what they learned about their partner. Remind both speakers and listeners to think about and use the good listening and speaking skills they learned during each other’s dialogue. The completed reproducibles then have the names of partners on the reproducible. Then the pairs are to draw a picture or write several sentences telling a couple of interesting things they learned about each other during the conversation. These items are then displayed along with any additional information that the volunteer learned about the partner.

Getting to Know a New Student

When a new student enters your classroom, arrange a time for the student to meet with small groups of students. Give each group several Conversation Cards™, and encourage students to use them as conversation starters to learn more about each other. Conversations with Students from Other Classrooms

Ask a teacher either at your grade level or another level to join your class. Pair one student from each class together, and give each pair several Shuffle and Share Conversation Cards™. After all the pairs have had a chance to talk, gather the two classes together, and have each student introduce his or her partner to the class. Then the pairs are to share what they learned during the conversation. Encourage pairs to extend their conversations by asking additional questions. Once one partner is finished speaking, indicate that the other partner is to answer the question. After all partners have finished talking, ask volunteers to come forward to talk about what they learned about their partner. Remind both speakers and listeners to think about and use the good listening and speaking skills they learned during each other’s dialogue.
A Good Speaker/A Good Listener Reproducible

Name: ____________________________

**Good Speakers:**

- Look at the person or the people they are speaking to
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Speak loudly enough for listeners to hear them
- Thoughtfully answer questions that their listeners ask

**Good Listeners:**

- Look at the speaker
- Think about what the speaker is saying
- Think of thoughtful questions to ask to learn more from the speaker
- Allow the speaker to finish what he or she is saying before asking questions or responding
Based on the question, my writing ideas are:

Name of My Shuffle and Share Partner:

Date:

Here's what I learned about my partner today:

Shuffle and Share Writing Partner Writing Reproducible

Name:

Date:

Shuffle and Share Writing Ideas Reproducible

Based on the question, my writing ideas are:

Name of My Shuffle and Share Partner:

Date:

Here's what I learned about my partner today:

Shuffle and Share Writing Partner Writing Reproducible

Name:

Date:

Shuffle and Share Writing Ideas Reproducible