Word Wall Activities:

1. Mastery Sentences
The beginning of class is a natural time to use word walls. As students enter, have them create a mastery sentence for a word (or two!) a day. You must directly instruct this skill before having students practice independently. Begin with a simple sentence.
- The boy **ran**.

Pick students to add more details until the sentence creates a visual image.
- Who, what, where, when, why, how.

Do this with 2-3 words until all students understand the amount of detail needed for someone to know what **ran** means in this situation.

EX. The boy **ran** to catch the bus because he didn't want to be late on the first day of school.

Explain that in order to demonstrate "mastery" the sentence must include enough detail so that a reader who DOESN'T know what the vocabulary sword means can guess its definition from the context provided.

2. S2D2: Say, spell, define, draw
Students begin by repeating the words after you or by practicing pronunciation with a partner. Then, they write the word (spelled correctly!) and a definition and sketch a quick drawing that demonstrates their understanding of the word.
EXTENSION: Have students cover the word and definition. Then, ask them to show their drawing to a partner to see if the partner can guess the vocabulary word.

3. Guess the covered word
Write 4 or 5 sentences on the board using words from the word wall. Cover the word wall term. Have students read each sentence aloud and write down which word they think is covered. This is a good opportunity to use small dry erase or chalk boards, if you have them.

4. Word sorts
Provide category headings and have students sort the word wall terms into the appropriate place. Ask them to explain their choices to you or a partner. Category headings might be conceptual (people, places, things, actions, or ideas) or they could highlight words with similar features (roots, prefixes, suffixes).

5. Charades
Have students act out words from the word wall without speaking. Other students should use the word wall to guess the word being demonstrated. This works best in groups of 4-5.

6. Mind Reader
Give 5 clues to students and have them guess the word.
EXAMPLE:
> It is one of the words on the Word Wall (always the 1st clue)
> It has four letters.
> The vowel is a long a
> It begins with the /l/ sound.
> It completes the sentence:
>> I don't want to be ____ for dinner.