

## **What is PowerSpeak?**

PowerSpeak is the foreign language division of K12. They offer web-based foreign language courses specifically designed for kids. Some language learning programs marketed for children and teens are really adult programs that have essentially been repackaged and re-marketed for students. Not powerspeak<sup>12</sup>. PowerSpeak<sup>12</sup> courses were designed from the start for kids, whose young minds are still open to learning a language as a native speaker. This is important, because by the time we are adults, the language “compartments” in our brains have narrowed, diminishing our ability to comfortably learn a language like a native speaker. powerspeak<sup>12</sup> taps into, and capitalizes on, the innate ability that kids possess to learn languages quickly and easily.

## **Can my child learn a foreign language through a home based web program?**

PowerSpeak leverages multiple methods of teaching, encouraging multi-sensory learning and reinforcing connections through the use of rich graphics, audio, video, and music. Include engaging, age-appropriate content, games, and culturally relevant activities, helping students to enjoy their studies and remain highly motivated. Include tests and the option of enabling students to receive full academic credit, ensuring that students receive the ongoing practice, feedback, and academic recognition they require. Reward students as they learn, allowing them to accumulate points through an integrated, avatar-based reward system. Points can be redeemed for online prizes, keeping students engaged and eager to progress. Guide students toward proficiency, reinforcing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with increasing emphasis as students progress through course levels.

## **What languages are offered through the PowerSpeak program?**

Spanish, French, German, Latin (K-6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>), Chinese (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

## **What is the cost to enroll in a PowerSpeak language program?**

Early Light families will receive 70% off the retail price for each course. Parents will be given a discount code via email to be used on the PowerSpeak website during the checkout process. Enrollment will be online and will begin immediately. The code will be valid for 12 months starting the day of enrollment.

## **Who qualifies to use the discount coupon code?**

Early Light families qualify for use of the 70% off discount code. This includes siblings and parents of ELA students.

## **Can I share the discount code?**

PowerSpeak has only provided us with enough discount codes to cover ELA students and their immediate families. In the event the discounts have been shared outside of ELA and we run out, PowerSpeak will perform an audit to assure only approved ELA students are enrolled. So, PLEASE DO NOT SHARE the discount code.

## **I tried to use the code and it didn't work?**

Please contact a [board member](#) or the Foreign Language Liaison and they will assure that you are able to enroll in the course and receive the ELA discount.

## **I didn't receive the discount code, what do I do?**

You can contact a [board member](#) or the Foreign Language Liaison.

## **How do I sign up for a free trial?**

Parents may sign up for a free trial [online](#). The trial period lasts for one week. No cancellation required. No billing information is gathered for the free trial period.

## **How does the scholarship work?**

The scholarship is sponsored by PowerSpeak. Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch will qualify for 100% off the retail price for their ELA students. The ELA Foreign Language Liaison will enroll qualifying students using the 100% off coupon code. The 100% off coupon code can ONLY be used for ELA students that qualify for financial assistance. If you think you qualify for the scholarship, please email the ELA Foreign language Liaison.

## **Are ELA students required to enroll in PowerSpeak?**

There is no requirement for student participation in this program, however ELA hopes that interested parents will find this collaboration helpful.

### **What if I want a teacher involved in my child's foreign language studies?**

There is an option for certified teacher, which includes one-on-one support. The 70% discount applies for this option as well.

### **My child is registered for Middle School at ELA and plans to take High School level foreign language. Will they receive credit when they transfer to the public high school?**

PowerSpeak is accredited by the NAAS and is aligned to state and ACTFL guidelines. NAAS is also the same accreditation that high schools belong to within the state of Utah (ex. Bingham High School). Your child would have to successfully pass the high school level PowerSpeak "for credit" course. Generally high schools only review the 9<sup>th</sup> grade transcripts when considering high school level credit.

### **Where can I read more about foreign language at Early Light Academy?**

[February Enlightenment](#) announcing at-home program

[March Enlightenment](#) details on discount

[April Enlightenment](#) how language connects with history

### **How does language learning support academic achievement?**

Positive correlations exist between foreign language study and:

- Higher academic achievement on standardized test measures.
- Increased linguistic awareness.
- Students' ability to hypothesize in science.
- Higher scores on the SAT and ACT Tests.
- Higher academic performance at the college level when language studies have occurred during high school.

Additionally:

- Heritage learners who use their language skills to interpret and translate for family members experience higher academic performance and greater self-efficacy.
- Language learning is beneficial to both monolingual English and English language learners in bilingual and two-way immersion programs.
- Language learning is beneficial in the development of a student's reading abilities in his or her native language.
- Evidence supports that language learners transfer skills from one language to another.

### **How does language learning provide cognitive benefits to students?**

A positive statistical correlation exists between bilingualism and:

- Increased cognitive development and abilities.
- The offset of age-related cognitive losses.
- Attentional control while engaged in cognitive tasks.
- Overall intelligence.
- Metalinguistic skills.
- Memory skills.
- Problem solving ability.
- Improved verbal and spatial abilities.

### **How does language learning affect attitudes and beliefs about language learning and about other cultures?**

Research suggests that language learners develop a more positive attitude toward the target language and/or the speakers of that language. "We really can't understand other people without speaking their language," says Marty Abbott, past president of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. "If we don't learn that, we will continue to be a resented populace."

### **How many languages are spoken throughout the world?**

More than 2,700 major languages are spoken throughout the world. Today, 58 countries in the world and the United Nations include English as the official language, followed by French with 32 countries and the United Nations, and Arabic at 25 countries and the United Nations. The language spoken by the people most is Mandarin Chinese. Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language,

using four different tones to convey different meanings: flat, rising, falling then rising, or falling. English is second. English has more words than any other language. But English speakers generally use only about one percent of the language with about one third of the more than one million English words that are technical.

## How many people speak in the world speak each language?

### Chinese

About *one-fifth of the world* speaks some form of Chinese as its native language, making it the language with the most native speakers. There are between seven and thirteen main regional groups of Chinese (depending on classification scheme), of which the most spoken, by far, is Mandarin (*about 850 million*), followed by Wu (*90 million*), Min (*70 million*) and Cantonese (*70 million*). Standard Mandarin is the official language of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China, one of four official languages of Singapore, and one of six official languages of the United Nations.

### French

French is a Romance language spoken around the world by around 90 million people as first language, by *190 million* as second language, and by about another 200 million people as an acquired foreign language, with significant speakers in 54 countries. Most native speakers of the language live in France, where the language originated. The rest live essentially in Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, Francophone Africa, Luxembourg, and Monaco.

### German

German is one of the world's major languages and the most widely spoken mother tongue in the European Union. Around the world, German is spoken by approximately *105 million* native speakers and also by about 80 million non-native speakers. Standard German is widely taught in schools, universities and Goethe Institutes worldwide.

### Latin

Latin is an Italic language historically spoken in Latium and Ancient Rome. Through the Roman conquest, Latin spread throughout the Mediterranean and a large part of Europe. Romance languages such as Italian, French, Catalan, Romanian, Spanish, and Portuguese are descended from Latin, while many others, especially European languages, including English, have inherited and acquired much of their vocabulary from Latin. It was the international language of science and scholarship in central and western Europe until the 17th century, then it was gradually replaced by vernacular languages, especially French, becoming the new lingua franca of Europe. Today, the only country where Latin is the official language is Vatican City.

### Spanish

Today, about *350 million* people speak Spanish as a native language, making it the world's third most spoken language. Mexico contains the largest population of Spanish speakers. Spanish is growing increasingly popular as a second or third language in a number of countries due to logistical, economic, and touristic interest towards the many nations which chiefly use Spanish as the primary language.

## How many people speak each language in the United States?

### Chinese

Chinese, mostly of the Cantonese variety, is the third most-spoken language in the United States, almost completely spoken within Chinese American populations and by immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, especially in California. Many young Americans not of Chinese descent have become interested in learning the language, specifically Standard Mandarin, the official spoken language in the People's Republic of China (PRC). *More than 2 million Americans* speak some variety of Chinese, with the Mandarin variety becoming increasingly more prevalent due to the opening up of the PRC.

### French

The French language is spoken as a minority language in the United States. According to year 2000 census figures, *1.6 million* Americans over the age of five speak the language at home; making French the fourth most-spoken language in the country, behind English and Spanish. French-speaking communities have historically been located in southern Louisiana and in northern New England. French is the second most-spoken language in four states: Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

### German

Before World War I, more than 6% of American school children received their primary education only in German. Although more than 49 million Americans claim they have German ancestors, according to the 2005 American Community Survey, more than 96% of them speak English at home and in total only *1.38 million* Americans speak German. Today, German is the second most spoken language in two states: North Dakota and South Dakota. In the United States, German is third in popularity after Spanish and French in terms of the number of colleges and universities offering instruction in the language. However German ranks fifth as the most common language in the United States.

### Latin

The best grounding for education is the Latin grammar. The study of Latin does foster precision in the use of words. Since one

reads Latin closely and carefully, often word-by-word, this focuses the student's mind on individual words and their usage. It has been noticed that people who have studied Latin in school usually write quite good English prose. There may be a certain amount of stylistic imitation involved, but more important is the habit of reading closely and following important texts with accuracy. Through Latin, students can guess at the meanings of new words because they already know the roots and prefixes. But it's not just enhanced vocabulary. Math scores also increase.

### **Spanish**

The Spanish language is the second most-common language in the United States after English. According to the 2007 American Community Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau, Spanish is the primary language spoken at home by more than 34 million people aged 5 or older. The U.S. is home to more than 45 million Hispanics, making it the world's second-largest Spanish-speaking community, only after Mexico and ahead of Colombia, Spain, and Argentina.

## **How many students study English as a foreign language?**

Because English is so widely spoken, it has often been referred to as a "world language", the lingua franca of the modern era. While English is not an official language in most countries, it is currently the language most often taught as a second language around the world. Some linguists believe that it is no longer the exclusive cultural property of "native English speakers", but is rather a language that is absorbing aspects of cultures worldwide as it continues to grow. English is an official language of the United Nations and many other international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee.

English is the language most often studied as a foreign language in the European Union (by 89% of schoolchildren), followed by French (32%), German (18%), and Spanish (8%). Among non-English speaking EU countries, a large percentage of the population claimed to be able to converse in English in the Netherlands (87%), Sweden (85%), Denmark (83%), Luxembourg (66%), Finland (60%), Slovenia (56%), Austria (53%), Belgium (52%), and Germany (51%). Norway and Iceland also have a large majority of competent English-speakers.

## **Where can I find more information about foreign languages and cultures?**

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4524>

<http://www.geocities.com/ultrastupidneal/Knowledge-Language-Fact.html>

Spanish Facts: <http://spanish.about.com/library/weekly/aa070300a.htm>

French Facts: <http://www.languagehelpers.com/languagefacts/french.html>

German Facts: <http://www.languagehelpers.com/languagefacts/german.html>

Latin Facts: <http://www.promotelatin.org/whylatin.htm>

Chinese Facts: <http://www.languagehelpers.com/languagefacts/chinese.html>