**Powerspeak\textsuperscript{12} Course Description:**

**A Comparison between Current Powerspeak & NEW Competency/Fluency Courses (levels I, II, III & AP)**

**Overview:** The current powerspeak\textsuperscript{12} courses have received significant pedagogical and technological updates. These updates will provide students a broader range of practices and activities which will improve their language-learning experience.

**Improvements:** The courses provide students more opportunities to speak, read, write, and listen to the language in more contextualized and communicative situations.

- **Overall Enhancements**
  - Significantly more target language in each course
  - Addition of many more meaningful, communicative assignments and presentation of information
  - Course “teacher” added who provides extra tips and suggestions to students
  - Addition of activities that integrate language skills
  - Addition of quantity and quality of multimedia
  - More purposeful review of material
  - Synthesis activities created which integrate vocabulary and grammar in a more meaningful way
  - Discussion board prompts added (one per semester)
  - Weekly journal activities added

- **Assessments**
  - All quizzes, midterms, and finals re-written in order to align with the updated content
  - Addition of several task-based assessments

- **Pronunciation**
  - Addition of pronunciation lessons and practices

- **Vocabulary**
  - Vocabulary words have been divided into sets which ensure that no more than eight words are being presented at once
  - Vocabulary introduced in context through a conversation, a reading or listening passage, or through pictures
  - Addition of flashcard practices

- **Grammar**
  - Grammar animations added to explain grammar concepts
  - Students can now see, hear, and read grammar explanations
• Grammar is introduced in context through a reading or listening passage, a "notice" activity, or sentence comparisons

• Culture
  • Addition of culture tidbits which introduce students to little "c" culture (everyday cultural elements such as how to greet others, manners, transportation, etc.)
  • Addition of culture montages (pictures and audio) which discuss big "c" culture (presentation of country-specific customs, traditions, history, literature, etc.)

**Similarities:** Although there are several enhancements in the Competency courses, there are still several fundamental aspects that remain the same.

• Each unit consists of five days of content
• 36 weeks per year-long course
• Semester midterms and finals
• One teacher-graded activity per week (level 1)
• Weekly multiple choice tests
• Each unit focuses on one vocabulary theme
• Each unit focuses on one grammatical concept
• Aligned to ACTFL standards
• Fun and engaging activities and games

**Differences:** In order to implement all the enhancements described in the new courses, there were several elements that were removed.

• Diglot stories removed and replaced with more age-appropriate activities and practices
• Culture videos removed and replaced with culture video montages
• CultureGrams™ removed and replaced with culture video montages and culture bits
• Older “stretch” activities/stories replaced with more age-appropriate and contextualized activities
• Avatar "advisor" replaced with course “teacher”
• Student avatar system removed
• Games will be different in format from what we currently have
A New Look and Feel

Current Powerspeak

COMPETENCY/FLUENCY

Weekly Objectives

Check the home page for the latest information about your course. Throughout the week, you’ll find current information, including your weekly objectives, and additional resources to help you succeed.

Objectives:

- Practice reading and writing: This week, you’ll be practicing reading and writing in Spanish.
- Improve listening and speaking: You’ll be working on improving your listening and speaking skills.
- Develop cultural awareness: You’ll be learning about the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.
- Master grammar and vocabulary: You’ll be focusing on mastering the grammar and vocabulary you need to communicate effectively.

Guess & Confirm

In Spanish, there are two different ways to say “you.” Compare Column A with Column B and follow the instructions for the activity above. You’ll be able to complete the activity in the next activity.

Ask Yourself:

1. What are the two different ways to say “you” in Spanish?
2. How do you know when to use each one?
New Types of Activities in COMPETENCY/FLUENCY Courses