Double training ROI by increasing learning transfer

50% to 85% of learning do not transfer to workplace!

We arrange training classes to upgrade employees' skills. Afterwards, it is assumed that they will apply their newly learned skills to improve their job performance. Interestingly, research found that 50% to 85% of the employees fail at using their learning back to work. The fact is that people do not necessarily apply what they learned after class. The cruel fact is some of them forget what they have learned walking out of the classroom, and some of them tried with their new skills but failed and reverted back to the old ways of doing.

In other words, 50% to 85% of training budget is wasted because employees get nothing out of the training. There is high chance that no changes happen after class! If we can boost learning transfer out of the classroom, we can save those wasted budget and get a 200% training ROI.

So, what can we do to encourage learners apply their learning back to their work?

A meta-analytic research reviewing 89 studies (Blume et al., 2010) suggested three things L&D professionals can do to encourage learning transfer:

- Increasing motivation of trainees
- Inducing higher levels of supervisor and peer support in work environment
- Reinforce post-training knowledge and self-efficacy

L&D Practices to increase learning transfer

So what should L&D professionals do practically to increase the success rate of learning transfer? Here is a list of bullet-proof interventions for you:

Transfer Factor	Interventions
Motivation of Trainees	 Pre-course exercise / engagement Post-course exercise / engagement Contents include work examples Recognition Performance pay
Supervisor & Peer Support	 Action plan monitoring 1-on-1 meeting with supervisor Peer competition & campaign Buddy support scheme
Post-training Knowledge & Efficacy	 Follow-up Zoom webinars Presentation / teach back Job aids Work forms / checklists Automated reminders Coaching / mentoring