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Building confidence to learn English at King  
Abdullah High School – Dammam City

I certify that all material in this proposal which is not my own work has been identified and that no material has previously been submitted and approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University.

(Signature)

Abdullah

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## 1. Abstract

Surely, we will not learn if we don't have confidence, and we will not gain this confidence without setting goals and having real desire and determination to achieve them. Engagement , communication, chatting, talking to new friends on different topics, reading out loud, speaking on the phone are relevant activities which could strongly contribute to build confidence in ourselves. Undoubtedly, a learner who is not a native speaker should need a different strategy and technique than others to implement in his daily life. Some people were born with confidence and some were born shy. But confidence is a skill and like any other skill with practice and training it can grow.

## 2. Introduction

“Why certain people always succeed in getting what they want? And why some people are always the center of attraction wherever they go? What is the reason behind some people always collecting a mammoth gathering of people to listen to them, when most others fail to get even a small audience despite all the efforts on the part of the organizers?” (Ganga I, J.K. 2012:3: A

practical course Effective English Speaking Skills). Also why some students learn English faster than others? Why a student can speak English better than his classmates when they all received the same chance to learn?

The answer to these questions is very simple. Confidence is the key to learn and speak English. Successful English speaking students are originally confident learners. Because learning English at an Arabic speaking community is not easy, and because making mistakes and turning these mistakes into a reason of success also needs a specific skill. Confidence is the main skill that can help achieve a better result in learning English.

### 3. Literature review

This research will highlight the importance of confidence and how it had a big impact on the student's ability to learn and speak English at King Abdullah high school in Dammam city." As language learners, confidence is fundamental to communication, and an important catalyst to the whole process and the enjoyment at every step. As human beings, it transcends and includes the way we communicate, perceive others, and are perceived by them. Confidence is the most tangible

expression of who we are.” (Justin, 2012. 25 April: Why Confidence is the Key to English Fluency).

This research will show the techniques used by teachers to build students confidence in order to increase the level of English among King Abdullah high school. A major problem that faces English learners at King Abdullah high school is that they are afraid to make mistakes! Also they allow mistakes to become obstacles while the right thing is to turn these mistakes into an opportunity. “Self-confidence is the secret of success in life. A confident person is the one who always thinks positive about what he/she does or says, and never doubts its happy outcome. Speaking English is no exception to this.” (Ganga I, J.K. 2012:8: A practical course Effective English Speaking Skills).

#### 4. Significance of Research

This research is importance because of the following reasons:

1-To build confidence in the language learner at high school level and in a particular community that sees English as an important language but very intimidating at the same time.

2-This research will clarify the problems that increase the lack of confident English learners face.

3-This research will give solutions on how to build this confidence as it plays a major role in having a good outcome from the learning process.

## 5. Research Question

What are the ways to increase student's confidence in English learning at King Abdullah high school in Dammam?

## 6. Research Methodology

This research is using a survey among 2 groups of students at King Abdullah high school in Dammam. The 1<sup>st</sup> group of students is the experimental group. The 2<sup>nd</sup> group is the observational group. Each group contains 10 students. The 1<sup>st</sup> group will answer questions in the survey regarding mistakes and speaking English in public and other topics that examine their confidence. This

research will give an idea on how working on building confident can make students learn English faster.

## 7. Ethical Consideration

The community in Saudi Arabia in general and in Dammam in particular looks at English now as an opportunity creator. So there is nothing to worry about ethically in discussing the issue of confident in learning English at King Abdullah high school in Dammam.

## 8. Limitations of the study

The limitations faced this research mainly were the limited access to the school and limited time of students to be part of this survey. A lot of shy students didn't want to talk or discuss their lack of confidence in learning English.

## 9. Expected Results

This research will lead to finding new ways on how to encourage students to face mistakes with confidence. And learn English while enjoying it without building walls of shyness or intimidation of this important second language. It will give King Abdullah high school students and teachers answers to why student's improvement in English is very limited. This research will give a new area of focus to both students and teachers by showing the importance of the self-confidence and self-motivation role in achieving good English education.

## 10. References

Gangal, J.K.( 2012) 3: A practical course Effective English Speaking Skills: New Delhi PHI.

Justin .(2012). 25 April. Why Confidence is the Key to English Fluency, web page:

<http://reallifeglobal.com/why-confidence-is-the-key-to-english-fluency-or-any-language>)

Gangal, J.K.( 2012) 8: A practical course Effective English Speaking Skills: New Delhi PHI.

## 11. Appendix



Psychology plays a major role in human behavior. Self-confidence is one important factor in achieving success in many fields in life. To have a clear goal is also an outcome on Psychological effects. Confidence is all about personality and will affect the future of learners in many ways.

## 12. Control Group

The group of students watching and observing the experimental group answers the questionnaire and discusses the answers.

## 13. Study Group

10 high school students, age from 17 to 18 years old. Average English grades in their class at King Abdullah High School in Dammam.

## 14. Questionnaire Questions

1- Do you get nervous speaking English in public?

2- If you make a mistake while speaking English and someone corrected that mistake for you do you stop speaking or continue?

3- Are you excited to learn English or see it as a problem?

4- Do you use English other than in your English class at school?