

## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Herewith I declare that the research paper I wrote as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor's degree and submitted to the English education department, the faculty of education, and letters wholly constitutes my own original scientific writing.

The other persons' works whose ideas are quoted in this paper have been referred to appropriately in accordance with the prevailing legal and intellectual ethic in the world of scientific writing tradition.

However, suppose the originality of this paper is either partially or wholly proven later on, or it falls under convincing plagiarism. In that case, I would be prepared to receive any consequences in the form of any sanction, such as losing my related academic degree obtained from the institution and other rules prevailing in Indonesia.

Serang, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024



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## ABSTRACT

Melinda Hestiana. 201230037. 2024. EFL Students' Strategies for Attaining High Scores on The TOEFL Test. (*Descriptive Qualitative in English Education Study Program*).

This research aims to determine the difficulties and factors encountered by students with lower scores and the strategies employed by those achieving higher scores on the TOEFL test. A qualitative approach was chosen to gather data relevant to the research design. The study focuses on students in the 8th semester of the English Education Department at State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten. Data were gathered from the Language Development Unit. The results showed significant differences in participants' perspectives. Around fifty percent of the participants considered listening comprehension, structure, and written expression the most difficult parts of the TOEFL test. Poor-quality earphones, weak signal strength, a lack of strategic skills, a limited vocabulary, problems figuring out suggested meanings, and not being familiar with the speaker's voice and speed all contributed to difficulties with listening comprehension. Structure and written expression were recognized as the following most difficult parts. Many participants have forgotten the proper grammatical structures due to a long period since their last grammar class, which might be caused by a lack of practice, distraction from extracurricular activities, or a general lack of enthusiasm. Furthermore, 16% of participants reported that reading comprehension was the most challenging part because of reading extensive phrases that were long, which frequently triggered dizziness and struggles with focusing on the computer screen. On the other hand, results highlighted constant practice, long-term planning, listening, grammar, and reading skill development as essential advice for attaining a high TOEFL score. Participants also emphasized motivation and determination for successful studying. This suggests a multifaceted approach combining formal courses, self-directed learning, and a long-term plan with consistent practice across all skills. In summary, among the 23 English language education students who participated in the first batch of testing at the UIN SMH Banten Language Center, only six students (26%) achieved the minimum score requirement of 470, as stipulated by the department's academic guidelines for the munaqosah exam.

**Keywords:** *TOEFL Test, Listening Section, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension*

## THE ADVISER'S APPROVAL

This is to certify that the undergraduate research paper of Melinda Hestiana

**“EFL Student's Strategies for Attaining High Scores on The TOEFL Test”  
(Descriptive Qualitative in English Education Study Program)**

Has been approved by the research paper adviser for further approval by the Board  
of Examiners.

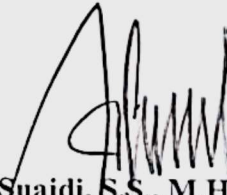
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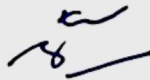
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# “EFL Student's Strategies for Attaining High Scores on The TOEFL Test”

(Descriptive Qualitative in English Education Study Program)

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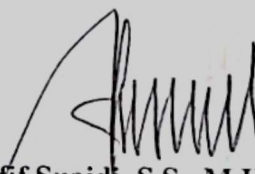
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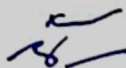
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## THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS' APPROVAL

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Serang, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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## DEDICATION

This undergraduate research paper will be highly dedicated to the following:

1. Allah swt who always gives full of grace and blessings.
2. My dearest parents (Mr. Enjen and Mrs. Nia) constantly pray for, support, affectionately care for, and encourage me.
3. My Advisers, Eulis Rahmawati M.Pd and Afif Suaidi, S.S.,M.Hum., who has guided and given their time in preparing this research paper.
4. I want to express my gratitude to myself for believing in me, enduring every obstacle, relentlessly pursuing my dreams, and consistently being authentic to who I am.
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6. My lovely friends Zalva Syah Fitri, Dhiza Yulia, and Dwi Febriyanti, with whom I've shared challenges and victories during our studies, thank you for being a part of my life. I appreciate how you always listen to my confessions and are there to help.
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## **MOTTO**

**Teach your heart to accept disappointments. Every delay and every roadblock is a blessing. You become stronger with the challenges the Almighty sends your way. And that's how you grow.**

**Be thankful.**

*-Mufti Menk*

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

The writer was born in Pandeglang on May 9th, 2001. She is a girl with a strong passion but a convoluted mind. A girl with the full name of Melinda Hestiana is the daughter of Mr. Enjen and Mrs. Iyah Nia, a couple of Sundanese. She is the oldest daughter of two siblings. She lives in Rekreasi Cilincing Street, RT 012, RW 04, Sub-district Cilincing, North Jakarta.

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During her time of studentship, she participated in internal activities at campus organizations such as the Association of English Students (HMJ TBI) for one period as the Chief of Women's Empowerment. She honed her teaching skills by participating in the KUKERTA Internasional program in Krabi, Thailand, in 2022, where she gained valuable insights and practical knowledge in cross-cultural education. Following her international stint, she has worked as a bilingual trainer, specializing in teaching English to students of various age groups. Currently, she is a tutor in one of the courses in Serang.



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*In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.*

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2. Dr. Nana Jumhana, M.Ag., the Dean Faculty of Education and Teacher Training State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten.
3. Dr. Hj. Eneng Muslihah, Ph.D., the Dean Deputy Faculty of Education and Teacher Training State Islamic University Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten.
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