



Novak Djokovic is a Serbian tennis star, who's currently ranked world No. 1 in men's singles tennis; many consider him to be one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

Djokovic's refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19 led to his **deportation** from Australia before his Australian Open title defense. He was hoping to get his 21st **grand slam** title there; instead, Rafael Nadal accomplished it in a **marathon** five-set match with Daniil Medvedev. For the first time this season, Djokovic competed in the Dubai Championship, where there is no requirement for vaccination. The rest of his matches are unclear.

During an interview with Serbia's state TV, Djokovic said he accepted that no vaccination might stop him from playing tennis in many tournaments this season. However, he said that he was open to getting vaccinated eventually.

Difficult words: **deportation** (when officials make someone leave a country), **grand slam** (winning four major championships in one sport in the same year), **marathon** (a long-lasting or difficult task or activity).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *deportation, grand slam and marathon*
2. Who is currently the world's No.1 men's singles tennis player?
3. Why was Djokovic deported from Australia before his Australian Open title defense?
4. Who accomplished the 21st grand slam title?
5. Why was Djokovic permitted to compete in the Dubai Championship?
6. Would Novak Djokovic eventually get vaccinated?

Express Your Thoughts

1. How popular is tennis in your country? Who are the most famous players in your country?
2. Has your country competed in any international tennis events this year?
3. Have there been players from your country who were banned from competing because they were unvaccinated?
4. Does your country have any COVID-19 entry restrictions against the unvaccinated?