



Novak Djokovic is the number one tennis player in the world, and he is one of the best tennis players in history.

Before the Australian Open, Djokovic refused to get a COVID-19 vaccine. He arrived in Australia, and he wanted to **defend** his title from 2021. Officials didn't let him play because of no vaccination, and they **deported** him from the country. Djokovic was very angry, and only a week later, Serbia stopped Australia's 2.4-billion-dollar business to mine **lithium** in Serbia.

It wasn't clear when Djokovic would play again. He could play in Dubai because it was unnecessary to have a COVID-19 vaccine there. Djokovic said that he knew that he could have problems in the future, and he would think about getting a vaccine.

Difficult words: **defend** (to win a game again), **deport** (to officially make someone leave a country), **lithium** (a silver metal which people use in batteries for electric things such as cars).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *defend*, *deport* and *lithium*
2. Who is Novak Djokovic?
3. Which country is Novak Djokovic playing for?
4. Why wasn't he allowed to play in the Australian Open and was deported from Australia?
5. How did Serbia respond to what Australia did to Novak Djokovic?
6. Why was Novak Djokovic allowed to play in Dubai?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Who are the famous international tennis players in your country?
2. Did your country play in the recent Australian Open?
3. Were there any players from your country that were not allowed to play due to COVID-19 Vaccine restrictions?
4. Does your country impose any COVID-19 restrictions targeting the unvaccinated?