Reading Practice – Former Champion Sinks into Despair

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.



Kenneth Low Ewe Loong, 47, was once a six-time national squash champion, bringing glory and recognition to Malaysia internationally. Now, he is broke and battling poor health. He was once at the pinnacle, but at present, he had to start all over again, working as a cleaner with a monthly salary of RM1500.

Kenneth suffered a stroke about two years ago. He is currently battling pain likely caused by a stroke-induced impairment leading to reduced coordination and motor skills, cognitive disability and short-term memory dysfunction. Unfortunately, he is struggling financially and cannot afford to undergo tests to determine the severity of the brain damage.

Kenneth was once rated No. 4 in Asia and No. 38 in the world when he represented Malaysia in squash. He is now cleaning floors, mirrors, doors, tables and chairs at the Best Archery Centre in Glo Damansara. Kenneth does not give up. He does whatever it takes to earn a living and is glad that he is not a burden to anyone. He is thankful to have been given a second chance at life by the archery centre's owner-coach, Jeffrey Kok.

Jeffrey immediately knew Kenneth needed urgent help but he did not give him a job out of pity. He initially hired Kenneth as a coach even though he knew nothing about archery. It is normal practice to train people with no archery experience as coaches because it is something that can be taught from zero. However, due to his health condition, Kenneth had to start working as a cleaner to gain strength. Jeffrey did not expect Kenneth's disability to be so severe. He was shocked that Kenneth was unable to do basic day-to-day things and lacked coordination skills. However, Kenneth has been humble enough to keep trying and Jeffrey applauds him for being a survivor.

Kenneth is one of many former athletes who gave up their studies to pursue their sports careers. These athletes faced challenges to earn a living once they had to give up the sports they loved. They could not get a job easily as they did not have the academic qualifications.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

*Choose no more than **five words and/or a number** from the text for each answer.*

1. Kenneth was once a squash champion who brought _____ to Malaysia on the international arena.

2. He now earns _____ a month working as a cleaner.

3. Kenneth is now suffering from cognitive disability, short-term memory dysfunction and _____ as a result of the stroke he had two years ago.

4. Kenneth is unable to take tests to check his brain as he is _____.

5. Kenneth' highest ranking in squash was _____ and No. 38 in the world.

6. Kenneth is grateful for the second chance at life given by Jeffrey Kok, the owner of the Best Archery Centre in _____.

7. Jeffery did not offer a job to Kenneth out of pity even when he realised Kenneth _____.

8. Many athletes had _____ to continue their career in sports.

*Complete the table below with **a word** from the text.*

	Meaning	**Word**
9.	the most important or successful part	
10.	causing very great pain; very serious	
11.	to try to achieve	
12.	the sports of shooting arrows with a bow	

LIVEWORKSHEETS