

Listening – Novak Djokovic On-Court Interview (Australian Open)

CONTEXT: Djokovic reached the semi-finals, but only because his opponent was injured, and in the interview he shows respect, honesty, and mixed emotions about a very uncomfortable win.

Listen to the interview and complete the gaps with ONE word or short phrase.

Task – Fill in the gaps

Interviewer: Novak, congratulations, but it's a tough way for Lorenzo to exit the court.

Djokovic: I don't know what to say except that I feel really _____ for him. He was a far better player. I was on my way _____ tonight.

These kinds of things happen in _____ and it happened to me a few times. Being in the _____ of a Grand Slam, two sets to love up and being in full _____, it's very unfortunate.

I really wish him a speedy _____ and he should have been the _____ today.

Interviewer: You came out very aggressively, coming to the _____ and taking the ball on the _____.

Djokovic: The strategy worked well in the first couple of _____ and then it changed completely. I had four winners and no unforced _____.

But that's what Lorenzo does — he makes you play when you think the point is _____.

I wasn't really feeling the _____ today, partly because of his quality and _____ in the game.

I'm extremely _____ to get through this match today.

Interviewer: Do you think being out of the match _____ hurt you?

Djokovic: To be quite frank, I have no _____. I'm going to double my _____ tonight for sure.

My main _____ remains my game. I'm not happy with my performance today, but another day in the _____ and hopefully I can be at my best.

After Listening – Speaking

1. Why does Djokovic feel sorry for his opponent?
2. What problems did Djokovic mention during the match?
3. How does he feel about his performance?
4. Do you agree with the expression “a win is a win”? Why / Why not?