

Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. for the ages (phrase) – referring to something memorable and noteworthy for a very long time.
2. binary (noun) – something having two parts.
3. definitive (adjective) – best, finest, most complete/perfect.
4. pulsating (adjective) – very exciting, thrilling, electrifying.
5. shy of (phrase) – less than; short of.
6. at times (phrase) – sometimes, occasionally, every so often, now and again.
7. demeanour (noun) – attitude, appearance, look.
8. grinding (adjective) – overwhelming, overpowering, unbearable/harsh.
9. detract from (verb) – diminish, reduce, lessen.
10. perception (noun) – insight, understanding, acuteness.
11. disservice (noun) – unkindness, bad turn, disfavour.
12. short of breath (phrase) – out of breath, gasping, gulping for breath.
13. triumph (verb) – come first, be the victor, win.
14. accumulate (verb) – get, obtain, acquire.
15. vanquish (verb) – conquer, defeat, repress.
16. upstage (verb) – surpass, outshine, do better than.
17. do credit to someone (noun) – make someone worthy of praise/respect.
18. clinch (verb) – win, be the winner of, be victorious in.
19. testament (noun) – witness/evidence, proof, testimony.
20. flinch (verb) – shy away, recoil, shrink, pull back.
21. fragile (adjective) – weak, shaky/risky, feeble/unsound.
22. abound (verb) – be plentiful, be abundant, be numerous.
23. breakthrough (noun) – success; progress/development, advancement.
24. meltdown (noun) – collapse, complete failure, decline.
25. mow down (phrasal verb) – knock down, destroy, wipe out/annihilate.
26. formidable (adjective) – strong, powerful, mighty.
27. make-up (noun) – character, nature, temperament.

One for the ages: on Wimbledon 2019

Alongside Federer and Nadal, Djokovic is ensuring tennis is at its competitive best

No player in the last decade has so thrillingly disrupted the Roger Federer-Rafael Nadal binary quite like World No.1 Novak Djokovic. Back in 2008, when Federer and Nadal met at Wimbledon in that iconic final, the contest had a definitive feel to it — to crown that era's best. The two met again this year, eleven summers since, just to earn the right to challenge Djokovic. Such has been the Serb's excellence that in the time between the two Federer-Nadal meetings, he increased his Grand Slam count from one to 15. Sunday's pulsating five-set victory over Federer brought him his fifth Wimbledon to put him just two

shy of Nadal (18) and four behind Federer (20) in the all-time list. At times, his on-court demeanour and his grinding style of **tennis** have detracted from the perception of his success. To not celebrate his greatness, however, would be a severe disservice. Nadal and Federer are still ranked two and three in the world and are playing at near-peak levels. But even at their best, Djokovic has left them short of breath. In fact, starting from the 2011 Australian Open — his second Major — Djokovic has triumphed at nearly every second slam he has entered (15 of 34). Federer in the same period has accumulated four and Nadal nine, of which seven have come at the French Open. Remarkably, Djokovic has vanquished either Federer or Nadal in 12 of the 16 slams he has won. Eight of those victories have come in finals.

That Federer, just three weeks shy of turning 38, came within one stroke of upstaging Djokovic is credit to the Swiss's genius. Even in a career as storied as his, it would have been more than just a normal data point if he had clinched his ninth **Wimbledon** by beating Nadal and Djokovic — two of his greatest rivals — back-to-back. It is a testament to Djokovic's supreme mental strength that he did not flinch, even under extreme pressure, and despite not being the better player on the day. When he started out, Djokovic was among the most emotionally fragile. Questions abounded as recently as last July when he slipped outside the top-20. But by securing four of the past five Majors, he has truly rediscovered the mind of a champion. Among women, it was the turn of Simona Halep to display similar powers, by adding Wimbledon to her 2018 French Open win. There was a feeling that following her breakthrough in Paris she had suffered a meltdown, as she had not progressed beyond the quarter-finals at any Major since then. However, the way she mowed down one formidable opponent after another at SW19, including the legendary Serena Williams in the final for the loss of just four games, was enough proof of her strong mental make-up.