



The Collector of Achievements

Tereza Leite

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. Consider this vocabulary:

IED (Improvised Explosive Device)

rehabilitation

prosthetics

to adapt (verb); adaptive (adjective)

2. Do you (or someone you know) have a physical limitation that you (or they) have had to work with? Describe it.

Lost His Legs in War

A bomb buried in the ground could have destroyed the life of soldier Temo Dadiani. Originally from the country of Georgia and currently an ESL student at the Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC), Dadiani was in Afghanistan in 2011. After four months participating in an international peacekeeping mission, Dadiani stepped on an *IED (Improvised*



Temo Dadiani with his wife and son on the ice rink where he plays sledge (or sled) hockey.

Some of Temo's Achievements

- Two-time planche push-up Guinness World Record holder (2014 and 2015)
- Three-time Georgian National Champion for wheelchair fencing
- Four gold and five silver medals in World para-armwrestling
- Two-time Nordic skier in the Paralympic Games (2018 and 2022)
- One bronze medal for powerlifting
- Five gold, one silver, and one bronze medal in 2020 Marine Corps Games
- University of New Hampshire Sled Hockey Team, New England champions

Explosive Device). In the explosion, he lost both of his legs above the knees. From there, he began his struggle for physical and emotional *rehabilitation* – a long process, which required a lot of willpower to overcome pain, physical limitations, and depression.

Reborn

“I was reborn,” says Dadiani when remembering everything he has gone through since that moment. Was that easy? Of course not. Dadiani underwent 28 surgeries in Germany and was later sent to the United States where he spent almost three years at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, California, for *rehabilitation, prosthetics, and physical therapy*.

Today, married to Nini and father of little Noe, Dadiani is a para-athlete and an example of overcoming obstacles. Since he started competing, he has collected many medals and success stories. For example, he joined the sled hockey team at the University of New Hampshire, where he is currently studying for a master’s degree in Recreation Management and Policy with the *Adaptive Sports Option*.

Learning English

At the same time, Dadiani has also been committed to overcoming another obstacle: to improve his proficiency in English. For this, he chose DALC as a partner, where his wife also takes ESL classes. Their son attends daycare at the school. “My whole family has benefited from an excellent experience at DALC. Here we not only learn grammar, but the teachers help us to *adapt* to everyday life in the U.S. And the whole



Georgia is located at the eastern edge of Europe and the western edge of Asia.

program also allows us to make valuable social connections,” he says.

Life Is Good

Despite – perhaps even because of – all the challenges he has faced, Dadiani concludes, “Life is good.”

AFTER YOU READ:

1. How does the author of this profile capture your attention at the beginning of the article?
2. Interview someone in your class to learn about them and then write a profile. How can you start your profile in a way that will make the reader want to learn more?



This photo is a screenshot from a four-minute video about Dadiani’s life on WMUR. You can watch it here: <https://www.wmur.com/article/nh-chronicle-temo-an-adaptive-athlete-from-the-republic-of-georgia/45142594#>

Tereza Leite (right) is a student at the Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC) in Dover, NH. She was born in Brazil, received an MBA in marketing and worked as a journalist. She has lived in New Hampshire since 2015 and she has studied English as a Second Language since 2017 at DALC.

