

1st May 2023

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran faces a **trial** in court over claims he allegedly copied the Marvin Gaye classic from 1972 "Let's Get It On". Sheeran is up against an American jury on accusations that his 2014 song "Thinking Out Loud" is **undoubtedly** a copy of the famous R&B hit. The lawsuit was started by the estate of Ed Townsend, who co-wrote the song with Gaye. Townsend's family allege that Sheeran blatantly based his **composition** on the chord progression and the chord harmony of "Let's Get It On". They claim that these two parts of the song, when played seamlessly together, are **exclusively** Gaye's intellectual property (IP). They demand a \$100 million settlement. Sheeran's legal team supposedly **acknowledged** the similarities of the two songs privately, but they have **proposed** that the musical parts are common and cannot be copyright. Sheeran has publicly acted dismissively of these lawsuits in the past, saying that **coincidentally** it is "bound to happen if 60,000 songs are being released every day on Spotify". Not all attorneys and lawyers agree with Sheeran, however. A civil rights attorney, Ben Crump, says Sheeran took the IP from a black artist whom he "doesn't feel as worthy as **compensation**". Music and entertainment lawyer Charlie Sanders adds that even if Sheeran copied it subconsciously, it is still **plagiarism**. But he says the music industry's business model is partially to blame. He says musicians are issuing lawsuits more often now due to earning less income as a result of **streaming** music.

Q1. _____

What does the phrase "thinking out loud" mean?

Finish the sentence – "Music streaming has affected..."

Q2. _____

Which bolded words in the text mean: *song – payment – copying – fully – case – by chance – internet broadcast – certainly – suggested – accepted*

Q3. _____

"the music industry's business model is *partially* to blame"

What does the italicised word above mean: *fully - slightly - not?*

Q4. _____

Link the five synonym pairs:

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. settlement | A. obvious |
| 2. accusation | B. ignore |
| 3. blatant | C. believe |
| 4. suppose | D. deal |
| 5. dismiss | E. claim |

Q5. _____

Spell the words correctly:

r t a l i
o d n u b y t u b a l
n e t s e l e t m t
l i a y r t a p l
t r a s i g m n e

Q6. _____

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

Is it hard to earn a living from art?

Why do musicians do cover songs? Do you have a favourite cover song?

How do people become musicians in your country?

What are the pros and cons of music streaming platforms?

What parts of a song structure can you name?

Q7. _____

Make an A to Z list of words to do with music.

Q8. _____

C1 10 lesson keywords: underlined in text.