

## Ed Sheeran allegedly copied Marvin Gaye classic

### B2+/C1 Grammar pairs cloze: adverbs of certainty and uncertainty

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A. exclusively / B. allegedly      | 6. A. subconsciously / B. supposedly  |
| 2. A. coincidentally / B. undoubtably | 7. A. dismissively / B. blatantly     |
| 3. A. blatantly / B. dismissively     | 8. A. coincidentally / B. allegedly   |
| 4. A. supposedly / B. seamlessly      | 9. A. subconsciously / B. undoubtably |
| 5. A. exclusively / B. partially      | 10. A. seamlessly / B. partially      |

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran faces a trial in court over claims he

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 4. \_\_\_\_\_ together, are 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Gaye’s intellectual property (IP). They demand a \$100 million settlement.

Sheeran’s legal team 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 7. \_\_\_\_\_ of these lawsuits in the past, saying that 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 9. \_\_\_\_\_, it is still plagiarism. But he says the music industry’s business model is 10. \_\_\_\_\_ to blame. He says musicians are issuing lawsuits more often now due to earning less income as a result of streaming music.

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#### Answers

- 1B allegedly
- 2B undoubtably
- 3A blatantly
- 4B seamlessly
- 5A exclusively
- 6B supposedly
- 7A dismissively
- 8A coincidentally
- 9A subconsciously
- 10B partially

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