

Ed Sheeran allegedly copied Marvin Gaye classic

B2+/C1 Vocabulary gap-fill cloze

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|----------------|-----------------|
| A. proposed | F. copyright |
| B. streaming | G. issuing |
| C. harmony | H. accusations |
| D. trial | I. acknowledged |
| E. composition | J. settlement |

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran faces a 1._____ 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 2._____ that his 2014 song “Thinking Out Loud” is undoubtably 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 3._____ on the chord progression and the chord 4._____ 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 5._____.

Sheeran’s legal team supposedly 6._____ the similarities of the two songs privately, but they have 7._____ that the musical parts are common and cannot be 8._____. 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 9._____ lawsuits more often now due to earning less income as a result of 10._____ music.

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Answers

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- 2H accusations
- 3E composition
- 4C harmony
- 5J settlement
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- 7A proposed
- 8F copyright
- 9G issuing
- 10B streaming

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