

Ed Sheeran allegedly copied Marvin Gaye classic

B2+/C1 Writing cloze

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|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. rtali | 6. mahroyn | 11.yrocpithg |
| 2. nicutscaosa | 7. culseielvyx | 12.ivcli |
| 3. odnubytubal | 8. netseletmt | 13.liayrtapl |
| 4. ausltiw | 9. koldacnwedeg | 14.sgiunis |
| 5. omncosipito | 10.orposdep | 15.trasigmne |

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 3._____ a copy of the famous R&B hit.

The 4._____ was started by the estate of Ed Townsend, who co-wrote the song with Gaye. Townsend’s family allege that Sheeran blatantly based his 5._____ on the chord progression and the chord 6._____ of “Let’s Get It On”. They claim that these two parts of the song, when played seamlessly together, are 7._____ Gaye’s intellectual property (IP). They demand a \$100 million 8._____.

Sheeran’s legal team supposedly 9._____ the similarities of the two songs privately, but they have 10._____ that the musical parts are common and cannot be 11._____. 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 12._____ 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 13._____ to blame. He says musicians are 14._____ lawsuits more often now due to earning less income as a result of 15._____ music.

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Answers

1. trial
2. accusations
3. undoubtedly
4. lawsuit
5. composition
6. harmony
7. exclusively
8. settlement
9. acknowledged
10. proposed
11. copyright
12. civil
13. partially
14. issuing
15. streaming

Full lesson with interactive exercises at:

www.everybitenglish.com/lesson-20230501-c1-sheeran-copyright

Writing practice

Choose a question and write your answer below.

1. Is it hard to earn a living from art?
2. Why do musicians do cover songs? Do you have a favourite cover song?
3. How do people become musicians in your country?
4. What are the pros and cons of music streaming platforms?
5. What parts of a song structure can you name?

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