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Level 1 – 27th June 2024

Major record labels sue AI companies over copyright

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-1.html>

A.I. is changing the music business. Three big record labels are suing two A.I. start-up companies. The labels say the start-ups are infringing their copyrighted music on "an almost unimaginable scale". The labels say the start-ups are creating music that could fill the market with "machine-generated content". Record labels say this music will "cheapen and ultimately drown out the genuine sound recordings".

A.I. companies say their music is protected under a special law called "fair use". This lets people reuse copyrighted material legally. Fair use means people can use material for things like news and comedy. A start-up CEO said his technology generates "completely new output, not...pre-existing content". However, the record labels say the start-ups have created songs that sound exactly like ABBA songs. The labels want the start-ups to pay \$150,000 per song.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckrrr8yelzvo>
<https://www.wired.com/story/ai-music-generators-suno-and-udio-sued-for-copyright-infringement/>
<https://www.billboard.com/pro/major-label-lawsuit-ai-firms-suno-udio-copyright-infringement/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A.I. is changing | a. creating music |
| 2. Three big | b. copyrighted music |
| 3. start-ups are infringing their | c. scale |
| 4. on an almost unimaginable | d. recordings |
| 5. the start-ups are | e. generated content |
| 6. fill the | f. the music business |
| 7. machine- | g. market |
| 8. drown out the genuine sound | h. record labels |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. their music is protected | a. per song |
| 2. reuse copyrighted | b. can use material |
| 3. Fair use means people | c. new output |
| 4. for things like news | d. existing content |
| 5. technology generates completely | e. under a special law |
| 6. pre- | f. like ABBA songs |
| 7. songs that sound exactly | g. material legally |
| 8. pay \$150,000 | h. and comedy |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-1.html>

A.I. is changing (1) _____. Three big record labels (2) _____ A.I. start-up companies. The labels say the start-ups are infringing their copyrighted music (3) _____ "unimaginable scale". The labels say the start-ups are creating music that could (4) _____ with "machine-generated content". (5) _____ this music will "cheapen and ultimately drown out (6) _____ recordings".

A.I. companies say their music (7) _____ a special law called "fair use". This (8) _____ copyrighted material legally. Fair use means people can use material for things like (9) _____. A start-up CEO said his technology generates "completely (10) _____ ...pre-existing content". However, the record labels say the start-ups have (11) _____ sound exactly like ABBA songs. The (12) _____ start-ups to pay \$150,000 per song.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-1.html>

A.I. is changing the music business. Three big record labels are suing two A.I. start-up companies. The labels say the start-ups are infringing their copyrighted music on "an almost unimaginable scale". The labels say the start-ups are creating music that could fill the market with "machine-generated content". Record labels say this music will "cheapen and ultimately drown out the genuine sound recordings". A.I. companies say their music is protected under a special law called "fair use". This lets people use copyrighted material legally. Fair use means people can use material for things like news and comedy. A start-up CEO said his technology generates "completely new output, not... pre-existing content". However, the record labels say the start-ups have created songs that sound exactly like ABBA songs. The labels want the start-ups to pay \$150,000 per song.

COPYRIGHT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about copyright in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

