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**Level 2 – 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-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-2.html>

Artificial Intelligence is changing many things. Not all of the things are good. Three of the world's biggest record labels are suing two AI start-up companies. The labels say the start-ups are infringing their copyrighted music on "an almost unimaginable scale". The labels say the AI start-ups have created software to create music that could "saturate the market with machine-generated content". Record label lawyers say AI-made music, "will directly compete with, cheapen and ultimately drown out the genuine sound recordings". This could be a disaster for singers.

AI companies say their software creates music that is protected under copyright law. A special law called "fair use" lets people reuse copyrighted material legally. Fair use means people can use music for things like news reporting and comedy. A start-up company CEO defended his company. He said: "Our technology is...designed to generate completely new output, not to [repeat] pre-existing content." However, the record labels say the start-ups have created songs that sound exactly like "Dancing Queen" by ABBA. The labels want compensation of \$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-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Artificial Intelligence is   | a. music                |
| 2. Not all of the               | b. biggest              |
| 3. Three of the world's         | c. for singers          |
| 4. infringing their copyrighted | d. scale                |
| 5. on an almost unimaginable    | e. recordings           |
| 6. machine-generated            | f. changing many things |
| 7. drown out the genuine sound  | g. content              |
| 8. This could be a disaster     | h. things are good      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. their software creates music | a. like news             |
| 2. reuse copyrighted material   | b. created songs         |
| 3. use music for things         | c. output                |
| 4. A start-up company           | d. of \$150,000 per song |
| 5. generate completely new      | e. CEO                   |
| 6. repeat pre-                  | f. legally               |
| 7. the start-ups have           | g. existing content      |
| 8. compensation                 | h. that is protected     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-2.html>

Artificial Intelligence is (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Not all of the things are good. Three of the world's biggest record (2) \_\_\_\_\_ two AI start-up companies. The labels say the start-ups are infringing their copyrighted music (3) \_\_\_\_\_ "unimaginable scale". The labels say the AI start-ups have created (4) \_\_\_\_\_ music that could "saturate the market with machine-generated content". Record label lawyers say AI-made music, "will (5) \_\_\_\_\_, cheapen and ultimately drown out the genuine sound recordings". This could be a (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

AI companies (7) \_\_\_\_\_ creates music that is protected under copyright law. A (8) \_\_\_\_\_ "fair use" lets people reuse copyrighted material legally. Fair use means people can use music for things like news (9) \_\_\_\_\_. A start-up company CEO defended his company. He said: "Our technology (10) \_\_\_\_\_ generate completely new output, not to [repeat] pre-existing content." However, the record labels say the start-ups have created songs that (11) \_\_\_\_\_ "Dancing Queen" by ABBA. The labels (12) \_\_\_\_\_ \$150,000 per song.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-2.html>

ArtificialIntelligenceischangingmanythings.Notallofthethingsaregood.Threeoftheworld'sbiggestrecordlabelsaresuingtwoAIstart-upcompanies.Thelabelssaythestart-upsareinfringingtheircopyrightedmusiconanalmostunimaginablescale".ThelabelssaytheAIstart-upshavecreatedsoftwaretocreatemusicthatcould"saturatethemarketwithmachine-generatedcontent".RecordlabellawyerssayAI-made music,"willdirectlycompetewith,cheapenandultimatelydrownoutthegenuinesoundrecordings".Thiscouldbeadisasterforsingers.AIcompanies saytheirsoftwarecreatesmusicthat isprotectedundercopyrightlaw.Aspecial lawcalled"fairuse"letspeoplereusecopyrightedmateriallegally.Fairusemeanspeoplecanusemusicforthingslikenewsreportingandcomedy.AstartupcompanyCEOdefendedhiscompany.Hesaid:"Ourtechnologyis...designedtogeneratecompletelynewoutput,notto[repeat]pre-existingcontent."However,therecordlabelssaythestart-upshavecreatedsongsthat soundexactlylike"DancingQueen"byABBA.Thelabelswantcompensationof\$150,000persong.

# COPYRIGHT SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-2.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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Major record labels sue AI companies over copyright – 27th June 2024*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2406/240627-copyright-infringement-2.html>

Write about **copyright** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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