



# The big debate

## Does it matter if music is made by AI?

Some people say we deserve to know if our favorite tunes are computer-generated.

### What you need to know

- Artificial intelligence (AI) is a computer system that can learn from experience, like humans do.
- AI music is created when a computer system analyzes existing songs and uses that data to create new ones.
- There are currently no clear laws in the US about the creation of AI music or how it is presented.
- Music streaming services such as Spotify are not required to let listeners know that music on their platform is AI-generated.

A band called the Velvet Sundown broke through in 2025, with three albums and more than a million monthly listeners on Spotify. Photographs of the four band members showed them performing, driving, and eating together. But fans noticed there was very little about them online and thought that was odd. Soon it was revealed that Velvet Sundown's music was made entirely by AI. Fans were in for an even greater shock when they learned that the band members didn't exist—they were AI-generated too. Many people were outraged, but others said it didn't matter because they still liked the music. What do you think? Does it matter if music is made by AI?

#### YES Three reasons it matters if music is made by AI

- 1 Music is about human experiences and emotions. Computers can't re-create this.
- 2 AI models are trained on music that was created by human artists. It's not fair to use their work like this.
- 3 AI music should be clearly labeled on streaming platforms so listeners can choose whether or not to listen to it.



#### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think it matters if music was made by AI or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

About 20,000 AI-generated tracks are uploaded to the Deezer streaming service every day.

#### Yes—people should know up front

Music is so much more than just lyrics and a melody—it's an expression of human emotions and experiences and often carries powerful messages. Computer-generated music can't possibly have the same depth. And even AI music has to come from somewhere. Human artists like Dua Lipa and Elton John have raised concerns that their music is being used to train AI without their permission. That's not fair. Besides, AI is evolving so quickly that it will soon be even harder to tell what's human-made and what's not. People have a right to know they're listening to AI-generated tracks, so they should be labeled clearly.

#### No—the experience is what matters

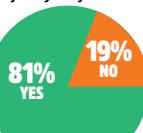
As long as people like the way a song sounds and makes them feel, do they really need to know how it was created? It's the outcome—and how they experience it—that matters. If people can't tell that music was made using AI, then surely it's just as good as the real thing. Besides, AI could be a real boost to musicians. Not everyone has access to a recording studio or expensive equipment, and they can use AI to supplement their own efforts. AI-generated music is simply the result of progress. Artists have been using technology to make tracks for years. This is the next natural step.

#### NO Three reasons it doesn't matter if music is made by AI

- 1 If people are moved by the music, it doesn't matter how it was produced.
- 2 Not everyone plays an instrument or has access to a recording studio. AI lets more people make their own music.
- 3 Using new technology to make music isn't new. Artists have been doing it for years, and this is natural progress.

#### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if the US minimum wage should be raised. A large majority of you support a pay increase for US workers: 81% of you said yes, and 19% said no.



The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.