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The image displays several overlapping screenshots of the businessenglishpod.com website. The top screenshot shows a 'Members Only' section with a link to sign up. Below it, there are several podcast episode listings, each with a 'Download Podcast' button and a 'Study Notes: Download' link. The middle screenshot shows the main website header and a specific episode page for 'BEP 43 INT - Opening and Managing Meetings (Part 2)'. The bottom screenshot shows a quiz interface for 'BEP 44 INT - Socializing: Striking Up a Conversation', featuring a play button for an audio clip and a list of multiple-choice questions.

Viacom sues 'YouTube' for \$1 billion (click to listen to the MP3)

This week's Business News story is about a company that's been in the news a lot lately - and probably one that you've heard of if you like online videos - YouTube.

Story

Media giant Viacom has **sued** Google and its online video **subsidiary** YouTube for \$1 billion. This is the first big **lawsuit** against the online video site and its **parent** for **copyright infringement**.

Experts **predict** more lawsuits to come.

In the lawsuit filed in the **U.S. District Court** for the Southern District of New York, Viacom, which is the owner of MTV and Comedy Central, said that "almost 160,000 **unauthorized clips** of its TV shows have been available on YouTube. Viacom said that these clips had been viewed more than 1.5 billion times."



In addition to **damages**, Viacom said it wants an **injunction prohibiting** Google and YouTube from further **copyright infringement**.

Google said that it and YouTube had yet to see the lawsuit. But Google added it felt "confident that YouTube has respected the legal rights of **copyright holders** and believe the courts will agree."

Viacom first demanded that YouTube take down videos that were **posted** on the site without Viacom's **consent**. Google bought YouTube for nearly \$1.7 billion last year.

Viacom is the first major **media firm** to sue Google and YouTube for copyright infringement. Other media companies, including GE-owned NBC Universal, CBS, and Universal Music Group, have decided to **partner** with YouTube, which is the world's most popular online video site. But Viacom said that it decided to sue Google and YouTube "after a great deal of **unproductive negotiation**."

"Obviously, they couldn't **come to an agreement**. Viacom must have felt its **back was against the wall** and had to **pull the trigger** and file a lawsuit," said Barry Cohen, a partner with the intellectual property practice with Thorp Reed & Armstrong, a law firm based in Pittsburgh.

Vocabulary

1. **Viacom** *n* – The name of a big media company that owns MTV & Paramount.
2. **Media** *n* – a general term that refers to different forms of communication, including TV, films, radio, newspapers etc.
3. **sue** *v* – to take legal action by filing (beginning) a lawsuit.
4. **subsidiary** *n* – a company that is owned by a larger company.
5. **parent** *n* – the main company that owns other companies, usually called *subsidiaries*.
6. **copyright infringement** *n* – copyrighted material that has been used without the copyright owners permission.
7. **predict** *v* – to make a guess on what might happen in the future based on existing knowledge.
8. **U.S. District Court** *n* –
9. **unauthorized** *v* – to do or use something without permission.
10. **clips** *n* – a short section of a song, video or film.
11. **damages** *v* – money that is paid as compensation to the winning side in a lawsuit.
12. **injunction** *n* – a legal order intended to stop something from happening.
13. **prohibiting** *v* – to stop somebody from doing something.
14. **copyright holders** *n* – individuals or companies that own the rights to a particular piece of work, such as a film or song.
15. **post** *v* – to put information onto the internet.
16. **media firm** *n* – a company primarily involved in media.
17. **consent** *v* – permission
18. **partner** *v* – to cooperate with another person or company
19. **unproductive negotiation** *col* – a negotiation that did not reach any conclusion.
20. **come to an agreement** *col* – to reach an agreement.
21. **back was against the wall** *idiom* – to be in a difficult situation.
22. **pull the trigger** *idiom* – make a serious decision, usually under pressure.

Links

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/index>

Viacom: <http://www.viacom.com/>

YouTube in the news:

<http://news.google.com/news?um=1&tab=wn&client=safari&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&rls=en-us&q=YouTube>