[电子游戏(上)]

导读

计算机与通讯技术的不断升级使电子游戏飞入寻常百姓家，这在一方面促进了娱乐消费模式的发展，另一方面也带来一系列问题，比如沉迷网络游戏等。但本文讨论的却是电子游戏的另一面——mod(游戏模组)。

游戏模组就是将原游戏中的道具、武器、角色、敌人、事物、模式、故事情节等做出修改，又或是加入新的道具及事物。很多电脑游戏的"Mod"的名气与原作不相伯仲，部分 mod 甚至在多次更新后成为一款独立的游戏。

正是基于 mod 的开发模式，作者认为，没有必要 stifle 孩子对电子游戏的兴趣，如果开发得当，这一兴趣可能会发展成一个职业。正如最近电影《后来的我们》中井柏然饰演的林见清一样。

通过本文，我们要完成以下任务：

1. 对电子游戏要有一个正确认识，在不沉迷的前提下，不仅可以作为一种娱乐方式，缓解压力，还可以作为一种职业。

2. 学习一些精彩表达。

预习问题答案与解析

1. 文中的"mod"指的是什么？

   mod 是"游戏模组"的意思，指效仿那些经典原创游戏，经重新改编设计后的游戏。

2. 如何理解第五段的"eclipse"？

   eclipse 在文中是"使黯然失色"的意思，具体 mod 比原版游戏更受人欢迎(more popular).

3. Fortnite 和 PUBG 之间是什么关系？

   Fortnite 是 PUBG 的 mod.

4. 最后一段的"This tinkering culture"指的是什么？用文中原话解释。

   modding, disassembling their favourite games, sculpting them into something new（最后一段）

5. 作者对 video games 持什么态度？

   支持。从最后一段的 Worried parents might reassure themselves with the thought that, if their children get interested enough, their hobby might one day turn into a career.中可以看出来。

It's been a hard day's Fortnite

And I've been working on a mod

> Video games 指的是大型的"电子游戏"，比如撸啊撸、刀塔、绝地求生(PUBG)，以及题目中的 Fortnite(堡垒之夜)都是 video games.
>
> It's been a hard day's Fortnite 一语双关，a hard day's...是一个固定搭配，指"一天辛苦的..."，比如：a hard day's work / walking / skiing 一天辛苦的工作/走路/滑雪。
> 一方面，a hard day's Fortnite 可以理解为"辛辛苦苦打了一天的游戏"，比如《后来的我们》里林见清事业不顺、处处碰壁、意志消沉，天天窝在简陋的出租屋里打游戏的场景，文中具体指青少年沉迷游戏；另一方面，从事游戏模组开发者在经过一天的辛苦工作后，会感叹到：It's been a hard day's Fortnite! 就像我们说 It's been a hard day's work 一样，暗指 modding 会成为一种职业——这对应着引言部分：And I've been working on a mod，也是文章主旨所在。
> Work on... 从事，致力于，比如：
> I've been working on the reading materials.
> 我一直在准备阅读材料。

1. TWENTY years ago schoolyard fads revolved around clothes and music. Now they are as likely to involve video games. The latest must-have is "Fortnite Battle Royale", a lighthearted multiplayer shooter in which up to 100 players parachute onto a continually shrinking playing field, hunt each other down and compete to be the last one standing.

文章 1-2 段是第一部分，讲了以堡垒之夜(Fortnite)为代表的电子游戏之流行程度。第一段主要是引出主题，并介绍"堡垒之夜"，通过这一段我们要掌握：

1. "...成为流行"怎么说才清新脱俗？
2. 如何简洁明了的向别人介绍吃鸡游戏？

"...成为流行"怎么说才清新脱俗？

前两句话：TWENTY years ago schoolyard fads revolved around clothes and music. Now they are as likely to involve video games.

阅读中如果出现过去的时间点，则该时间点后面的内容不重要，顶多是一种铺垫的作用，我们可以一扫而过，寻找后面的时间转折词，在文中也就是 now. Now 后面的内容才是文章主线。

这是外刊常用的写作手法，比如 2017 年 4 月《经济学人》上一篇有关中国 BAT(百度、阿里巴巴、腾讯)的文章，开头写道：

THERE was a time, not that long ago, when China's big internet companies were dismissed by investors in Silicon Valley as marginal firms with a tendency to copy Western products. Not any more. **Today** they are monsters with increasingly hefty international ambitions.

不久之前，硅谷的投资者还根本不把中国的大型互联网公司放在眼里，认为它们不过是些边缘企业，往往都是照搬西方的产品。时过境迁，今天这些中国互联网公司已经长成了猛兽，在国际市场上的野心不断膨胀。

之后的内容，一直围绕着中国互联网企业的 increasingly hefty international ambitions 展开。

这一方法可以提高阅读速度，考试中也可以用此避开陷阱。

20 年前，schoolyard fads 围绕着(revolve)服装和音乐。Revolve around 是"围绕"的意思，比如 The earth revolves around the sun.地球绕太阳转。Revolve around 也可以进一步引申为抽象的"围绕...转，以...为中心"，比如 The discussion revolved around...，讨论的重点/中心是...；His whole life revolves around...，他的一生都在做...。

Heroic Hollywood 在有关《复联 3》的报道中，回忆了《银河护卫队》中的片段，文章说道：

One of the most-discussed aspects of the film revolves around Chris Pratt's character, Star-Lord.

该电影讨论最激烈的一面围绕着 Chris Pratt 扮演的星爵。

文中，schoolyard fads revolved around...可以理解为，校园流行围绕着...，也就是"...成为校园流行"。

fad 指"一时的流行"，一般说...fads 或 a fad for...来表示"...热"，比如，出门的时候经常有发小广告的给你说："游泳健身了解一下"，这说明健身已成为一时风尚：There is a fad for physical fitness.

我们可以用 a passing fad 来表示"昙花一现"。

2017 年 11 月有篇《经济学人》出现了 fad 一词：

JAPAN is prone to fads—usually in fancy desserts or fashion ripe for Instagram.

日本容易受到潮流的影响，通常是花哨的甜点或时装等可以发到 Instagram 上的东西。（Instagram 是西方的一款拍照交流软件，大致等于美图秀秀+微博）

Fad 的反义词是 be here to stay，后者的意思是 exist for a long time and be accepted as normal. 比如：

Interest in organic food is not a <u>fad</u>, it's <u>here to stay</u>.

对有机食品的兴趣不是一时的狂热，它是长久的。

20 年前是这个样子，而现在(Now)，fads are as likely to involve video games(as they did twenty years ago)，很明显，involve 是对 revolve around 的替换，在这里取"牵涉，涉及"之意。

这两句话可以用在"电子游戏"写作的开头，用来引出主题，自然顺畅。

我们看一下这两句的翻译：

TWENTY years ago schoolyard fads revolved around clothes and music. Now they are as likely to involve video games.

20 年前，服装和音乐在校园里倍受追捧。如今追捧的对象可能是电子游戏了。

如何简洁明了的向别人介绍吃鸡游戏？

第三句话：The latest must-have is "Fortnite Battle Royale", a lighthearted multiplayer shooter in which up to 100 players parachute onto a continually shrinking playing field, hunt each other down and compete to be the last one standing.

Must-have 既可以作名词也可以作形容词，表示"必备品，必备的"，如今，学位越来越重要，我们就可以用到 must-have 这个词：Now, degrees have become a must-have.

最近读到一篇《经济学人》，开头有段话讲到了韩国的高考制度，和大家分享一下：

IN A classroom in Seoul a throng of teenagers sit hunched over their desks. In total silence, they flick through a past exam paper. Stacks of brightly coloured textbooks are close to hand. Study begins at 8am and ends at 4.30pm, but some will not go home until 10pm. Like hundreds of thousands of South Koreans, they are preparing for the *suneung*, the multiple-choice test that will largely determine whether they go to a good university or a bad one, or to university at all.

这段话很有画面感，我们可以稍作修改，用来描写天朝的高考。

最新的一款必玩游戏叫(the latest must-have is...)"堡垒之夜"，堡垒之夜是一款轻松愉悦的多人射击游戏(multiplayer shooter).

Battle royale game 指"大逃杀游戏"，a lighthearted multiplayer shooter 作"Fortnite Battle Royale"的同位语，in which...又是 multiplayer shooter 的定语从句，"在这款游戏中..."，开始介绍游戏内容了。

up to 100 players parachute onto a continually shrinking playing field, hunt each other down and compete to be the last one standing

这段话虽然只有 23 个词，但基本上把大逃杀类游戏的主要元素都体现出来了，简洁明了，而且具有较强的动作性和场景性。建议先读一遍，在大脑中构建画面，然后根据画面进行复述。

我们看这部分的翻译：

The latest must-have is "Fortnite Battle Royale", a lighthearted multiplayer shooter in which up to 100 players parachute onto a continually shrinking playing field, hunt each other down and compete to be the last one standing.

最新的一款必玩游戏叫做"堡垒之夜"，是一个轻松的多人射击游戏，多达 100 名玩家空降在一块不断缩小的场地上，相互厮杀，看谁能够活到最后。

2. It is wildly popular. One estimate is that it had 45m players in March. A match broadcast on YouTube, and featuring some of that site's stars, attracted more than 1.1m concurrent viewers, making it one of the most watched streams ever. Other big publishers, such as Activision-Blizzard, are pondering jumping in with clones of their own. Parents blame it for unfinished homework and for corrupting their children's oh-so-pure minds. Some schools have tried, mostly in vain, to prevent students from playing.//

第二段可以分为两部分，第一部分围绕着 popular 展开，照应第一段的 fads，第二部分讲了父母对孩子的担忧，主要为下文做铺垫。通过这一段我们要掌握：
1. "收视率最高"用英文怎么说？

"收视率最高"用英文怎么说？

It is wildly popular. One estimate is that it had 45m players in March. A match broadcast on YouTube, and featuring some of that site's stars, attracted more than 1.1m concurrent viewers, making it one of the most watched streams ever.

It is wildly popular，开门见山，wildly popular 照应第一段的 fads，wildly 副词，用来加深 popular 的程度，也可以用 dramatically、overwhelmingly 来替换。

有多 popular？口号无用，作者拿出了两组具体的数据：

一组是三月份的玩家数量：45m players，4500 万；

另一组是比赛直播的同时在线人数：1.1m concurrent viewers，110 万同时在线。

A match broadcast on YouTube, and featuring some of that site's stars, attracted more than 1.1m concurrent viewers, making it one of the most watched streams ever.

这句话的主干是：A match attracted more than 1.1m concurrent viewers.

这场比赛吸引到 110 万人同时观看。

making it one of the most watched streams ever，这部分是现在分词作状语，指 这使它成为观看人数最多的直播。Stream 表示"水流，溪流"，这个大家不陌生，但在这里表示"直播"，live streaming platform 直播平台。

most watched 观看最多的，收视率最高的。

我们之前可能会说：...has the highest audience ratings，比较直接，而 most watched 给我们提供了一个新的思考角度。

刚才举的《复联 3》的例句中，有 most-discussed:

One of the most-discussed aspects of the film revolves around Chris Pratt's character, Star-Lord.

USA Today 也有一篇关于《复联 3》的报道，里面有这么一句话：

Josh Brolin, unrecognizable as uber-villain Thanos in Infinity War, was voted most-anticipated screen villain.

我在公众号文章《经济学人中有哪些精彩表达(3)》中也讲到了一个类似的：most talked-about，链接如下：

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/egSCWYWeNdzLKpuPZv1nDA

按需整理。

文中，broadcast on YouTube 和 featuring some of that site's stars 都是 A match 的后置定语，前者是被动关系(a match that was broadcast on You Tube)，所以用过去分词；而后者是主动关系(a match that featured some of that site's stars)，用现在分词。

Feature sb 的意思是 to include a particular person or thing as an important part 以…为主要部分/特色，在电影中也就是"以…为主演"的意思。大家可以造一个有关《复联 3》的句子，在群里和小伙伴分享、交流。

我们看这几句话的翻译：

It is wildly popular. One estimate is that it had 45m players in March. A match broadcast on YouTube, and featuring some of that site's stars, attracted more than 1.1m concurrent viewers, making it one of the most watched streams ever.

这款游戏广受欢迎。有人估计其玩家在三月达到了 4500 万人。三月份该网站的明星在油管上直播了一场赛事，同时收看直播的观众达到 110 万人以上，成为有史以来收视率最高的直播。

....

Other big publishers, such as Activision-Blizzard, are pondering jumping in with clones of their own.

一石激起千层浪，《堡垒之夜》如此成功，其他大型游戏发行公司(publisher)坐不住了，比如 Activision-Blizzard 动视暴雪。

Blizzard 是"暴风雪"的意思，在气象、灾难事故类的报道中经常出现，我们也可以用 a blizzard of 来表示"大量（要处理的事物）"：a sudden large amount of something unpleasant or annoying that you must deal with. 比如：

a blizzard of emails
一大堆要处理的电子邮件
可以和今早公众号推送中讲到的"bombard"联系起来。

ponder 的意思是 to think sth carefully，可以和 consider 替换。

Jump in 体现了动视暴雪的迫切心情，jump in 跳进去，也就是"匆忙做某事"的意思。2018 年 1 月有篇《经济学人》讲到了比特币，题目叫 the rise and fall of Bitcoin，里面有这么一句话：

Bargain hunters jump in and temporarily drive the price higher but it doesn't last.
投机者可能会急忙抄底，暂时推动股价上涨，但这上涨不会持续。

clones of their own 指 动视暴雪自己的大逃杀游戏。

我们看这句话的翻译：
Other big publishers, such as Activision-Blizzard, are pondering jumping in with clones of their own.
其他大型出版商，比如动视暴雪，也在考虑设计一款属于自己的大逃杀类的游戏。

....

Parents blame it for unfinished homework and for corrupting their children's oh-so-pure minds. Some schools have tried, mostly in vain, to prevent students from playing.

Blame...for... 因为...(for...)而责怪...(blame...)，是一个表示原因的写作句型，blame 后面是原因，for 后面是结果。
也可以说 blame...on...，blame 后面是结果，on 后面是原因。

corrupt 在这里是名词动用。基辛格在 On China（《论中国》）一书中谈到了中国曾用来对付蛮夷的"五饵"之策：

To give them . . . elaborate clothes and carriages in order to <u>corrupt</u> their eyes; to give them fine food in order to <u>corrupt</u> their mouth; to give them music and women in order to <u>corrupt</u> their ears; to provide them with lofty buildings, granaries and slaves in order to <u>corrupt</u> their stomach . . . and, as for those who come to surrender, the emperor [should] show them favor by honoring them with an imperial reception party in which the emperor should personally serve them wine and food so as to <u>corrupt</u> their mind. These are what may be called the five baits.

賜之盛服车乘以<u>坏</u>其目；賜之盛食珍味以<u>坏</u>其口；賜之音乐、妇人以<u>坏</u>其耳；賜之高堂、邃宇、府库、奴婢以<u>坏</u>其腹；于来降者，上以召幸之，相娱乐，亲酌而手食之，以<u>坏</u>其心：此五饵也。（试着看着中文把英文说出来）

oh-so-pure 中，"oh-so"用来加深 pure 的程度，相当于 very.

Some schools have tried, mostly in vain, to prevent...
try 指过程"努力"了，in vain 指结果"徒劳、无用"。

我们看这句话的翻译：
Parents blame it for unfinished homework and for corrupting their children's oh-so-pure minds. Some schools have tried, mostly in vain, to prevent students from playing.

家长们谴责这个游戏耽误孩子完成作业，并侵蚀他们无比纯洁的心灵。一些学校试图阻止学生打游戏，但是大多无济于事。

说到这里，文章似乎要分析如何防止青少年沉迷游戏，但下一段的 interesting 又把文章带向另一个方向。

3. Moral panics are tedious things. But "Fortnite" is interesting for a good reason. It shows the long-established influence within video-gaming of hands-on tinkering, in which players take existing products and splice together "mods", or modifications, which change how the game is played.

3-6 段是文章的第二部分，主要讲了电子游戏的 mod.
第三段引出并介绍了 mod.

第一句话：Moral panics are tedious things. But "Fortnite" is interesting for a good reason.

tedious 可能有人不认识，但我们可以根据逻辑转折词 but 推断出来，它和 interesting 是一对反义词。考试阅读理解中也可以用这个方法来推断词意。

for a good reason 指的是什么？考试中可能会在此设问。我们往下读：

It shows the long-established influence within video-gaming of hands-on tinkering, in which players take existing products and splice together "mods", or modifications, which change how the game is played.

It shows...后面可以加句子，也可以加词，表示"这体现了...，这表明..."，这里加的是词：the long-established influence 长久以来的影响力

Long-established 可以用来形容传统等抽象的东西：long-established tradition 长久以来的传统，也可以形容企业等具体的东西：long-established companies 老企业。

最近《复联 3》的报道中也出现了一个表达：a long-anticipated film 期待已久的电影。

hands-on tinkering 中，hands-on 指 doing sth rather than just talking about it，比如：to gain hands-on experience of industry 获得勤劳工作的实际经验；

thinker 是 modify 的意思，"修改、调整"，这里指开发游戏模组。

video-gaming of hands-on tinkering 就是指 经过修改后的电子游戏，也就是 mod 游戏模组。

It shows the long-established influence within video-gaming of hands-on tinkering 这体现了游戏模组长久以来的影响力。

splice together 就相当于 put together, piece together 拼接，组装。

我们看这一段的翻译：

Moral panics are tedious things. But "Fortnite" is interesting for a good reason. It shows the long-established influence within video-gaming of hands-on tinkering, in which players take existing products and splice together "mods", or modifications, which change how the game is played.

道德恐慌乏味无聊，而《堡垒之夜》却因某个原因有趣很多。这体现了游戏模组长久以来的影响力，游戏模组指玩家对现有的产品进行改装，从而改变了游戏的方式。

文章从校园流行讲到电子游戏，又从电子游戏讲到游戏模组，到第三段终于引出了文章的主题。Video-gaming of hands-on tinkering 具体有哪些呢？都是怎么样的一个情况？我们看明天的讲解。

4. The "Quake" series of first-person shooting games, the earliest of which was published in 1996, were some of the first programmed with mod-friendliness in mind. Fans transmogrified them into everything from a snowboarding simulator to a video-game version of "The Matrix", a science-fiction film. Some mods become as popular as the original games on which they are based.

第三段引出了 mod 这一主题，是第二部分(3-6 段)的总领段，4-6 段围绕着 mod 的展开，分为两种情况：第一中情况，mod 和 original version 一样受欢迎(4)；第二种情况，mod 比 original version 更受欢迎(5-6)。

第四段讲的是 mod 和 original version 一样受欢迎的情况。

The "Quake" series of first-person shooting games, the earliest of which was published in 1996, were some of the first programmed with mod-friendliness in mind.

这句话的主干是：The "Quake" series were some of the first / programmed with mod-friendliness in mind.

the first 在这里是名词，指第一批(游戏)，第一批什么样的游戏呢？programmed with mod-friendliness in mind 在编程时考虑到游戏模组的。programmed with mod-friendliness in mind 是过去分词作后置定语，with...in mind 考虑到。

Mod-friendliness 游戏模组友好型（be good for mod），environment-friendliness 环境友好型，environment-friendly 环境友好型的。

the earliest of which was published in 1996 是"Quake" series("雷神之锤"系列)的定语从句，意思是，该系列的第一款游戏发布于 1996 年。

我们看这一部分的翻译：

The "Quake" series of first-person shooting games, the earliest of which was published in 1996, were some of the first programmed with mod-friendliness in mind.

第一人称射击游戏"雷神之锤"系列是第一批在编程时考虑到游戏模组的游戏，该系列的第一款游戏发布与 1996 年。

....

Fans transmogrified them into everything from a snowboarding simulator to a video-game version of "The Matrix"s, a science-fiction film. Some mods become as popular as the original games on which they are based.

transmogrify 一词即使我们不认识也可以根据前缀"trans-"和介词"into"推断出来，跟"改变"有关，它的英文解释是：to change or be changed completely. 和 change, transform 是一个意思，只是程度更深。

Everything from...to...是一个表示举例子表达，可以理解为"比如…，从…到…"。
a science-fiction film 是"The Matrix"的同位语，指《黑客帝国》是一部科幻电影。
a video-game version of "The Matrix"s 指 电子游戏版的《黑客帝国》。

我们看这一部分的翻译：
Fans transmogrified them into everything from a snowboarding simulator to a video-game version of "The Matrix"s, a science-fiction film. Some mods become as popular as the original games on which they are based.
粉丝们把这些游戏改造的五花八门，比如模拟滑雪或者电子游戏版的"黑客帝国"（一个科幻电影）。一些游戏模组和原版游戏同样受人欢迎。

5. Just occasionally a mod <u>eclipses</u> its parent game. One example is PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), which started life in 2013 as a modification of ARMA 2, a military simulation. The mod was written by Brendan Greene (aka PlayerUnknown), an Irish graphic designer, and became so popular that it was released in 2017 as a stand-alone game. It made more than $100m in its first three months on sale. "Fortnite" is the most popular of a rash of PUBG clones—more popular, in fact, than PUBG itself.

第五段以 PUBG 和 Fortnite 为例，讲了 mod 超过 original version 的情况。
通过这一部分，我们可以学到：
1. "黯然失色"用英语怎么说？

"黯然失色"用英语怎么说？

Just occasionally a mod eclipses its parent game.

eclipse 在中文中对应着"食"，"食"就是"亏缺"，比如 lunar eclipse 月食；solar eclipse 日食。
eclipse 这个词还可以表示 a loss of importance, power, etc. 常见搭配为 in eclipse. 2017 年 7-8 月的《外交事务》中有一篇文章叫 Trump the Traditionalist, 里面有这么一句话：
There are some "America first" ideologues on the White House staff, but they are clearly <u>in eclipse</u>, and their influence is <u>on the wane</u>.
白宫官员中有些"美国优先"的理论家，但他们的势力以及影响力显然在下降。

文中，in eclipse 和 on the wane/decline 互为同义词，写作或口语表达中可以相互替换。

2015 年 7 月，《经济学人》刊登了一篇题为 Silicon Rally 的文章，有一句话是这么写的：

Many companies that supplanted IBM during the 1980s and 1990s, such as Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft, now find themselves in eclipse.

很多在 20 世纪 80-90 年代期间取代了国际商用机器公司的企业，现在地位在下降，比如惠普和微软。

在某些方面，英文和古汉语一样，为使句子更加形象、生动，经常名词动用，比如 eclipse, 作动词时表示"遮住…的光"，进一步引申为"使相形见绌，使黯然失色"，柯林斯词典中的英文解释是：If one thing is eclipsed by a second thing that is bigger, newer, or more important than it, the first thing is no longer noticed because the second thing gets all the attention.

比如 2017 年 7 月 1 日的《经济学人》中有篇文章叫 Race and status anxiety, 里面有这么一句话：

He thought that when the economy was growing or stable, some groups of Americans developed "status anxiety" about being eclipsed by others.

他认为，当经济保持增长或平稳运行的时候，一些美国群体会产生"地位焦虑"，担心自己会被别人超过。

再比如 2017 年 4 月 28 日的《经济学人》中有一篇文章分析了香港和大陆的关系，文章是这么说的：

Still, pessimists abound. For such folk, the dramatic rise of DJI, the drone multinational mentioned earlier in this special report, confirms that Shenzhen has eclipsed their city.

然而，依然有很多对香港未来感到悲观的人士。对他们来说，大疆创新(DJI)（该专题报道开头提到的无人机跨国公司）的迅速发展表明，深圳已超过香港。

dwarf 一词和 eclipse 有异曲同工之妙，dwarf 作名词表示"侏儒，小矮人"，名词动用，表示"使相形见绌"，比如：

The US air travel market dwarfs that of Britain.

与美国航空旅行市场比起来，英国的航空旅行市场显得相形见绌。

我们平时说的"把…甩了好几条街"也可以用 eclipse, dwarf 来表达，或者说 crush 碾压，比如本期《经济学人》中有一篇文章讲的是小米上市，雷军说：小米 MIX2S 碾压了苹果的 iPhoneX：

At a launch event in Shanghai in March for the MIX2S phone, Mr Lei strode on stage in gleaming white trainers in a stadium filled with Mi-Fans, as the company calls its devotees, claiming that his newest smartphone had "crushed" Apple's iPhoneX.

此外，我们还可以用 outperform, outshine, overshadow 来替换 eclipse, dwarf, 不过后者更加生动形象。

我们看这一句话的翻译：
Just occasionally a mod eclipses its parent game.
有时，mod 比原版游戏更受人欢迎。

....

以 PUBG 为例：One example is PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), which started life in 2013 as a modification of ARMA 2, a military simulation.

One example is... 也是一个举例子的表达，还可以用 take..., consider..., examples include..., ...is a case in point, exhibit A is... 等来替换：

But inside China, too, the case for openness has powerful backing. Exhibit A is...

——the economist, 2017.4.8

The schoolchildren from Sichuan are a case in point.

——the economist, 2017.5.15

For years, bike-sharing schemes have been common in big cities around the world, including in China. Examples include Paris's Vélib and London's Santander Cycles ("Boris bikes").

——the economist, 2017.4.22

Take the Confucius Institutes and Classrooms. In 2007 a senior party leader described these as "an important part of China's overseas propaganda set-up."

——the economist, 2017.3.25

Start life 是对第四段 publish 的替换，下文也用了 release 作替换。

我们看这一句的翻译：
One example is PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG), which started life in 2013 as a modification of ARMA 2, a military simulation.
"绝地求生"就是一个例子，该游戏作为军事模拟游戏"武装突袭 2"的游戏模组，于 2013 年正式发行。

....

The mod was written by Brendan Greene (aka PlayerUnknown), an Irish graphic designer, and became so popular that it was released in 2017 as a stand-alone game. It made more than $100m in its first three months on sale.

这句话讲了绝地求生作为一款独立游戏发行后的情况。

as a stand-alone game 和上文 as a modification of ARMA 2 相照应，一个是 2013 年作为 ARMA 2 的模组，另一个是 2017 年作为一款独立的游戏。

Stand-alone 也经常写成 standalone，意思是"独立的"，USA Today 有关《复联 3》的报道中也出现了这个词：

Boseman's Black Panther was named the most anticipated comic-book character in a standalone movie.

make 在这里表示"赚钱"，其他"赚钱"的表达，比如 take in, collect, total, rake in, gross. 例句如下：

The Disney/Marvel film continued to vaporize its competition in its second week, becoming the fastest film ever to cross $1billion globally. Domestically, the film took in another $112 million - the second biggest second weekend ever, behind "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" - and has now made $450 million in the U.S. and Canada.

Walt Disney Co.'s superhero epic "Avengers: Infinity War" set new records for the biggest domestic and global opening   of all time this weekend, collecting an estimated $250 million in the U.S. and Canada and totaling $630 million around the world.

The Avengers series has been a sensation in the Chinese film market. Released in May 2012, The Avengers raked in 568.5 million yuan, while Avengers: Age of Ultron, which hit the screens three years later, grossed over 1.46 billion yuan.

我们看一下这句话的翻译：

The mod was written by Brendan Greene (aka PlayerUnknown), an Irish graphic designer, and became so popular that it was released in 2017 as a stand-alone game. It made more than $100m in its first three months on sale.

该模组由一位爱尔兰美术设计师 Brendan Greene(也叫 Player Unknown)所写，这款游戏颇受欢迎，以至于 2017 年作为一款单机游戏发行。

....

又举了 Fortnite 的例子："Fortnite" is the most popular of a rash of PUBG clones—more popular, in fact, than PUBG itself.

英语中，"a+量词+of"或"量词复数+of"相当于 some/many，即使 rash 这个单词我们不认识，也可以推断出来 a rash of PUBG clones 指的是 绝地求生的大量复制品。

我们看这一句话的翻译：

"Fortnite" is the most popular of a rash of PUBG clones—more popular, in fact, than PUBG itself.

> "堡垒之夜"在绝地求生的复制品中最受欢迎，实际上，比绝地求生本身更受欢迎。

6. It is not the first time this has happened. One of the most popular games of the past decade is "League of Legends", which boasts more than 2m daily players and professional tournaments that offer millions of dollars in prize money. Its roots also lie in "modding". And almost two decades after it was first released, about 440,000 people a day play "Counter-strike", a tactical shooting game built atop a game called "Half Life".//

> 第六段拿过去的游戏——英雄联盟和反恐精英举例子，讲了 mod 比 original version 更受欢迎的情况。
>
> It is not the first time this has happened. One of the most popular games of the past decade is "League of Legends", which boasts more than 2m daily players and professional tournaments / that offer millions of dollars in prize money.
>
> It is not the first time...表明第六段和第五段是并列关系。
>
> boast 一词表示 to have sth that is impressive and that you can be proud of.
> boast 可以通过 have 去理解，用法一样、方向相同，只不过 boast 是有比较好的、引以为豪的东西。比如：
> The city boasts two excellent museums.
> 这个城市以拥有两家出色的博物馆而自豪。
>
> 看一下这句话的翻译：
> It is not the first time this has happened. One of the most popular games of the past decade is "League of Legends", which boasts more than 2m daily players and professional tournaments that offer millions of dollars in prize money.
> 上述这种情况可不是第一次出现。"英雄联盟"是过去十年最受欢迎的游戏之一，它拥有 200 万以上的日常玩家以及奖励数百万美元的专业赛事。
>
> ....
>
> 然而，LOL 也是其他游戏的模组：Its roots also lie in "modding".
> 这款游戏也源于模组。
>
> ....

再举一个例子：And almost two decades after it was first released, about 440,000 people a day play "Counter-strike", a tactical shooting game built atop a game called "Half Life".

同义替换是英文中的常见现象，识别同义替换也是准确把握文章主旨的关键。同义替换不仅包括同义词替换，也可以通过变换句式等来实现。比如"某游戏拥有...日常玩家"，上一句话说的是... boasts...daily players，而这一句话用的是...play....

built atop a game called "Half Life"是过去分词作 a tactical shooting game 的后置定语，意思是，这一款策略类射击游戏是在"半条命"的基础上设计的。
Be built atop...的意思是"在...的基础之上"，和上文的 be based on 是同义替换。

我们看这句话的翻译：
And almost two decades after it was first released, about 440,000 people a day play "Counter-strike", a tactical shooting game built atop a game called "Half Life".
策略类射击游戏"反恐精英"是在"半条命"的基础之上设计的，发行已有近 20 年，日常玩家大约有 44 万人。

7. <u>This tinkering culture</u> is not unique to video games. Music has remixing and sampling; publishing has fan-fiction. But modding is bigger than either in its scope. Big mods are serious software projects, requiring programmers, artists, level designers and more, all of whom give their time free. Many in the games business got their start in modding, disassembling their favourite games, sculpting them into something new and learning about digital artistry along the way. Worried parents might reassure themselves with the thought that, if their children get interested enough, their hobby might one day turn into a career.

第七段是总结段，点明了作者对电子游戏的态度。

This tinkering culture is not unique to video games. Music has remixing and sampling; publishing has fan-fiction. But modding is bigger than either in its scope.

This tinkering culture 指"修改文化"，用文中的话说，就是 modding, disassembling their favourite games, sculpting them into something new.

not unique to video games 暗示了其他行业也存在这一现象，随后作者举例：music 和 publishing.
我们可以推断，remixing and sampling, 以及 fan-fiction 都是 the tinkering culture

的一种体现。

remixing and sampling 指 音乐中的混音和取样，fan-fiction 指的是由粉丝创作的同人小说，Wikipedia 中的解释是：

Fan fiction or fanfiction (also abbreviated to fan fic, fanfic, fic or ff) is fiction about characters or settings from an original work of fiction, created by fans of that work rather than by its creator. It is a popular form of fan labor, particularly since the advent of the Internet.

But modding is bigger than either in its scope.

In... 表示"在...方面"，这句话是说，modding 比 remixing and sampling 和 fan-fiction 的规模都要大。

看这一句的翻译：

This tinkering culture is not unique to video games. Music has remixing and sampling; publishing has fan-fiction. But modding is bigger than either in its scope.

这种修改文化并不是电子游戏所独有的。音乐届有混音和小样；出版业有同人小说。但是游戏模组的规模比它们都要大。

....

Big mods are serious software projects, requiring programmers, artists, level designers and more, all of whom give their time free.

除了规模大，mod 还有一个与众不同的地方，就是它是一种 serious software projects 严肃的软件项目，不是小打小闹。Serious 暗示了作者的态度——支持。

Give their time free 免费奉献出自己的时间。

我们看这句话的翻译：

Big mods are serious software projects, requiring programmers, artists, level designers and more, all of whom give their time free.

大型游戏模组是严肃的软件项目，需要程序员、美工、关卡设计师等，他们都无私奉献出自己的时间。

....

Many in the games business got their start in modding, disassembling their favourite games, sculpting them into something new and learning about digital artistry along the way.

Get one's start in...的意思是"发迹于...，从...起步"，比如，他一开始是个写公众号的：He got his start in running a Wechat official account.

disassemble 是 assemble(v. 组装、集合)的反义词，加了反义前缀"dis-"，英语中，词根决定词义，前缀决定词的方向，后缀决定词性。

Sculpt 一词可能不认识，但又有些面熟。sculpture 我们知道，指"雕塑"，"-ure"是名词后缀，比如 exposure, legislature 等，去掉之后，变成动词 sculpt，表示"雕刻"。当然文中不能翻译成"雕刻"，而是说这些人把游戏组装成新款，大致相当于 shape.

我们看这句话的翻译：
Many in the games business got their start in modding, disassembling their favourite games, sculpting them into something new and learning about digital artistry along the way.
很多游戏行业从业者都是从模组起步，他们把最喜欢的游戏拆分重组，做成新款，而且在这个过程中学习了数字艺术。

....

Worried parents might reassure themselves with the thought that, if their children get interested enough, their hobby might one day turn into a career.

最后一句话分量十足，照应引言"And I've been working on a mod"，回答了第三段的"But "Fortnite" is interesting <u>for a good reason</u>"这一问题，同时，reassure 也点明了作者的态度。

翻译：
Worried parents might reassure themselves with the thought that, if their children get interested enough, their hobby might one day turn into a career.
父母忧心忡忡，但他们可以这么想：如果自己的孩子对电子游戏有足够兴趣的话，爱好有一天可能会变成一种职业。这样一想就宽心很多。

Video games are frowned upon by parents as time-wasters, and worse, some education experts think that these games corrupt the brain. So far, much ink has been spilled over the harm done by video games to many young people who have been distracted from study, or become violent or committed extreme anti-social behavior. However, an ocean of studies and surveys suggest otherwise, showing that video games, in fact, may hold many benefits.

To begin with, playing video games is a good way to understand technology and the online world. We must recognize that we are now living in a high-tech, sophisticated world. With the help of video games, we can quickly adapt and get comfortable with the concepts of computing, which is particularly important for girls who typically are not as interested in high technology as much as boys.

Secondly, video games can be a boon for quick thinking and making fast analysis and decisions. Sometimes the player does this almost every second of the game, which gives the brain a real workout. According to a study, games simulating stressful events could be a training tool for real-world situations. Video games can be used to train soldiers and surgeons, according to the study.

Thirdly, if young people get interested enough in video games, their hobby might one day turn into a lucrative career, as Lin Jianqing, the main character in the movie *Us and Them*, a recent hit, did.

Video games are a mixed blessing. It does bring harmful effects, but you can't blame food for obesity.

另：大家的作文我基本上都看了，结构和逻辑上都没什么问题，结构上主要是避免头部过大、论述部分不足，注意篇幅匀称，像美女一样，该有肉的地方有肉，该瘦的地方要瘦。逻辑上主要注意一些连接词的使用，汉语是一门朦胧的语言，而英语是逻辑、思辨语言，受语言思维的影响，很多中国学生在写作的时候不注重逻辑词的使用，这一问题比较普遍，但不难改正，稍微注意一下就行。

第一单元写作部分说过，观点、结构、逻辑、语言各占四个单元，考虑到实际情况，稍作修改，今后重点将放到语言上，其他方面出现典型问题时再同大家嘱咐。

关于这次写作，语言方面的问题很大，我会把每个学员的问题都记录下来，汇总整理，在精读笔记中重点讲解相关知识。

另外，大家写完作文后，如果有时间的话，最好把它检查一遍。一来避免自己能避免的错误，把真正的问题留给我；二来，把平时的训练场当成战场，考试中你怎么做，平时就怎么做，这样，考试的时候才能游刃有余。

继续加油，如果课程学习中有什么问题或者建议的话，欢迎与班长沟通，祝好！