

讲义

## School attendance

学校出勤

## Absent-minded

无心学习

Covid-19 has faded, but American children are still missing far too much school

疫情已经消退，但美国儿童仍在大量缺勤

选自：The Economist August 26th 2023 edition United States

Two hundred and fifty years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote one of the first bills calling for **universal**, publicly funded education. He wanted all the children in his state of Virginia to attend classes. Not everyone was **convinced**. His bill never passed, and it took over 100 years for school to become **compulsory** across the whole of America.

For most of the past century, attendance grew. Then the covid-19 pandemic happened. For the best part of two years, children were forced to learn at home, **staring** at laptops. As they start the 2023-24 school year, a **terrifying** proportion still seem **barely** to be back.

250年前，托马斯·杰斐逊写下了最早的一份要求普遍、公共资助教育的法案之一。他希望弗吉尼亚州的所有孩子都能去上学。然而，并非每个人都被说服。他的法案从未通过，直到一百年多年后，义务教育才在全美实行开来。

在过去一个世纪的大部分时间里，入学人数都在增长。后来，新冠疫情爆发了。在两年疫情的大部分时间里，孩子们被迫在家里学习，盯着笔记本电脑听课。随着2023至2024学年的开启，绝大部分学生仍然没有回归线下课堂，令人震惊。

## 【词汇】

1. **absent-minded** /ˌæbsənt 'maɪndɪd/ adj. 专八 tending to forget things, perhaps because you are not thinking about what is around you, but about something else 健忘的；心不在焉的

例：Grandpa's becoming quite absent-minded.

爷爷变得十分健忘。

2. **universal** /ˌjuːnɪˈvɜːrsəl/ adj. 四级/雅思/考研 done by or involving all the people in the world or in a particular group 普遍的；全体的；全世界的；共同的

例：Agreement on this issue is almost universal.

这个问题几乎取得全体一致的意见。

3. **convinced** /kənˈvɪnst/ adj. completely sure about something 坚信；深信；确信

例：I am convinced of her innocence.

我坚信她是清白无辜的。

4. **compulsory** /kəmˈpʌlsəri/ adj. 六级/雅思/托福/GRE/考研/专八 that must be done because of a law or a rule (因法律或规则而) 必须做的，强制的，强迫的

例：English is a compulsory subject at this level.

英语在这一级别是必修科目。

<同义替换> mandatory

5. **stare** /ster/ v. 四级/考研 to look at somebody/something for a long time 盯着看；凝视；注视

例：I screamed and everyone stared.

我尖叫一声，众人都盯着我看。

6. **terrifying** /ˈterfəɪɪŋ/ adj. making somebody feel extremely frightened 使恐惧的；使十分害怕的；使惊吓的

例：It was a terrifying experience.

那是一次可怕的经历。

7. **barely** /ˈberli/ adv. 六级/雅思/托福/考研/专八 in a way that is just possible but only with difficulty 仅仅；刚刚；勉强可能

例：The music was barely audible.

音乐声勉强能听见。

According to a study published in early August, in the 2021-22 academic year 28% of schoolchildren missed at least three and a half weeks of school. The study, conducted by Thomas Dee, an education professor at Stanford University, found that “chronic absenteeism”, defined as when an enrolled pupil misses 10% of the

8月初发表的一项研究称，在2021至2022学年，28%的学生至少缺课三周半。斯坦福大学教育学教授托马斯·迪伊（Thomas Dee）进行的这项研究发现，“长期旷课”的现象（即在一学年内，已注册学籍的学生缺10%的课时）在2018至2019学年和2021

school year, almost doubled overall between 2018-19 and 2021-22. It went up in all 40 states in the study as well as in the District of Columbia. In Alaska, the state with the highest rate of chronic absenteeism, nearly half of all pupils missed enough school to be counted.

至 2022 学年之间几乎翻了一番。研究称，“长期旷课”现象在美国 40 个州以及哥伦比亚特区都有所上升。在长期缺勤率最高的阿拉斯加州，近一半的学生缺课，情况十分严重，足以引起重视。

### 【词汇】

1. **chronic** /'krɑ:nɪk/ adj. 雅思/托福/考研/专八 (of a problem 问题) lasting a long time; difficult to solve 长期的；慢性的；难以治愈（或根除）的

例：a chronic shortage of housing in rural areas

农村地区住房的长期匮乏

2. **absenteeism** /,æbsən'ti:ɪzəm/ n. the fact of being frequently away from work or school, especially without good reasons (经常性无故的) 旷工，旷课

例：the high rate of absenteeism

高旷课率

### 【长难句】

The study, conducted by Thomas Dee, an education professor at Stanford University, found that “chronic absenteeism”, defined as when an enrolled pupil misses 10% of the school year, almost doubled overall between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

句子的主干部分为：The study found that “chronic absenteeism” almost doubled overall between 2018-19 and 2021-22. 其中 that “chronic absenteeism” almost doubled overall between 2018-19 and 2021-22. 为**宾语从句**，整句话的意思是：研究发现，“长期旷课”的现象在 2018 至 2019 学年和 2021 至 2022 学年之间几乎翻了一番。

conducted by Thomas Dee, 为**后置定语**, an education professor at Stanford University 均为**同位语**，分别修饰 study 和 Thomas Dee，意思是：由斯坦福大学教育学教授托马斯·迪伊（Thomas Dee）进行的（研究）

defined as when an enrolled pupil misses 10% of the school year 为**后置定语**，对 chronic absenteeism 进行解释说明，其中 when an enrolled pupil misses 10% of the school year 为**宾语从句**，整句话的意思是：即在一学年内，已注册学籍的学生缺 10% 的课时

Explaining this is **tricky**. Students **skip** school for many reasons: lack of transport, poverty, the weather. But these are unlikely to have worsened **of late**. A more

要解释这一现象比较复杂。导致学生缺勤的原因有很多：缺乏交通工具，贫困，天气原因。但最近，这些因素对缺勤的影响

**plausible** explanation for the lasting rise is that, having experienced remote learning, some students—and perhaps their parents—no longer think it essential or even worthwhile to sit in a classroom. “It’s the same thing as in the workplace,” says a teacher in New Orleans. “Once you’ve gone down to only being there two or three days a week, coming back all five is hard.” His classrooms are especially empty on Fridays, he says, so he avoids **scheduling** the most important lessons then.

也糟糕不到哪儿去。对于这种持续增长的现象，有一个更合理的解释，即在适应了远程课堂之后，一些学生——或许还有他们的父母——认为坐在教室里是不必要的，甚至是不值得的。新奥尔良州的一位教师说：“这和在职场上是一样的道理。”“一旦你习惯了一周只去学校两三次，要求周一到周五都去学校上课就很难了。”这位教师说。他的教室在周五尤其空，所以他避免在周五安排最重要的课程。

### 【词汇】

1. **tricky** /'trɪki/ adj. **专八** difficult to do or deal with 难办的；难对付的

例：Getting it to fit exactly is a tricky business.

使这完全合适是件很难做到的事。

<同义替换> difficult

2. **skip** /skip/ v. **六级/雅思/考研/专八** to not do something that you usually do or should do 不做（应做的事等）；

不参加

例：She decided to skip class that afternoon.

她决定那天下午逃课。

3. **plausible** /'plɔːzəbl/ adj. **雅思/托福/GRE/考研/专八** (of an excuse or explanation 借口或解释) reasonable and

likely to be true 有道理的；可信的

例：Her story sounded perfectly plausible.

她的说辞听起来言之有理。

4. **schedule** /'skedʒuːl/ v. to arrange for something to happen at a particular time 安排；为...安排时间；预定

例：Local elections were tentatively scheduled for November.

地方选举暂定于十一月举行。

<同义替换> arrange

### 【短语】

1. **of late** : recently 最近

例：Birth rates have gone down of late.

最近出生率下降了。

This **alarming** absenteeism is **coinciding** with falls in enrolment. In a separate study **released** in February, Dr Dee found that public-school enrolment fell between autumn 2019 and autumn 2021 by 2.5% (about 1.2m pupils). Some of this is because the number of school-age children in America is **shrinking**, and a small part reflects a shift to private schools. But much seems to be the result of families **opting out** of school entirely. Private school attendance increased by 4%; homeschooling rose by 30%. Exactly what that means for the quality of **tuition** children are receiving is unclear. Some states **insist** on strict rules for homeschooled children; but some barely check on them at all.

令人震惊的旷课现象层出不穷的同时，入学人数也在骤降。在2月发布的另一项研究中，迪伊博士发现，2019年秋季至2021年秋季，公立学校入学人数下降了2.5%（约120万名学生）。一部分原因是美国学龄儿童的数量正在减少，还有一小部分反映了学生入学公立学校转为入学私立学校的现象。但这在很大程度上似乎部分家庭选择完全不接受学校教育的结果。私立学校入学人数增加4%；在家上学的人数增加了30%。这对孩子们接受的教学质量究竟有什么影响尚不清楚。一些州坚持对在家上学的孩子有严格的规定；但有些州几乎对此不闻不问。

### 【词汇】

1. **alarming** /ə'la:rmɪŋ/ adj. causing worry and fear 使人惊恐的；令人惊慌的；引起恐慌的

例：The rainforests are disappearing at an alarming rate.

雨林正以惊人的速度消失。

2. **coincide** /ˌkəʊɪn'saɪd/ v. 六级/雅思/托福/GRE/考研/专八 (of two or more events 两件或更多的事情) to take place at the same time 同时发生

例：It's a pity our trips to New York don't coincide.

真遗憾我们的纽约之行不在同一时间。

3. **release** /rɪ'li:s/ v. 四级/雅思/考研 to make a film, recording or other product available to the public 公开；公布；发布

例：to release a film/video 发行电影/录像

<同义替换> roll out

4. **shrink** /ʃrɪŋk/ v. to become or to make something smaller in size or amount (使) 缩小，收缩，减少

例：The market for their products is shrinking.

市场对他们产品的需求在减少。

5. **tuition** /tu'ɪʃn/ n. 四级/雅思/考研 the act of teaching something, especially to one person or to people in small groups (尤指对个人或小组的) 教学, 讲授, 指导

例: She received private tuition in French.

她由私人教授法语。

6. **insist** /ɪn'sɪst/ v. to demand that something happen or that somebody agree to do something 坚决要求; 坚持

例: I didn't really want to go but he insisted.

我并不真的想去, 但他硬要我去。

### 【短语】

1. **opt out**: to choose not to take part in something 决定退出; 选择不参与

例: Employees may opt out of the company's pension plan.

雇员可选择不参加该公司的养老金计划。

Attending school in person is important. Studies show that even after adjusting for poverty levels and race, children who skip more school get significantly worse grades. One published by the Institute of Labour Economics, a German think-tank, by three American academics, found that missing ten maths classes reduced the chance of a high school student graduating on time by 8%. Schools also connect pupils to important services. In Baltimore, schoolchildren can get free meals or be fitted for glasses through school; and their parents can be **hooked up with** social services. Educators can also **spot** if a child is being **neglected** or **abused**. Pupils develop social skills in school, take part in after-school programmes and learn sports.

去学校上学很重要。研究表明, 尽管依据贫困水平和种族对学校教育体系进行了调整, 但经常缺勤的孩子的成绩也明显更差。德国智囊团劳动经济研究所发布的一项由三名美国学者撰写的研究报告发现, 缺勤十节数学课会导致高中生按时毕业的几率降低 8%。在学校, 学生还可以享受到重要的服务。在马里兰州的巴尔的摩市, 学龄儿童可以在学校免费用餐或佩戴眼镜。他们的父母可以参与社会服务中。教育工作者也可以发现孩子是否被忽视或虐待。学生在学校培养社会技能, 参加课外活动并学习体育运动。

### 【词汇】

1. **think-tank** /'θɪŋk tæŋk/ n. a group of experts who provide advice and ideas on political, social or economic issues (政治、社会、经济问题的) 智囊团, 智库, 专家小组



例：a study published by a leading economic think tank

由一个重要经济智囊团公布的研究结果

2. **academic** /ˌækə'demɪk/ n. 四级/雅思/托福/考研 a person who teaches and/or does research at a university or college 高等院校教师；高校科研人员

例：There is much debate among academics about this issue.

关于这个问题，学者之间有很多争论。

3. **spot** /spɔ:t/ v. (not used in the progressive tenses 不用于进行时) to see or notice a person or thing, especially suddenly or when it is not easy to do so 看见；看出；注意到；发现

例：Can you spot the difference between these two pictures?

你能不能看出这两幅画有什么不同？

4. **neglect** /nɪ'glekt/ v. 四级/雅思/托福/考研 to fail to take care of somebody/something 疏于照顾；未予看管

例：She denies neglecting her baby.

她不承认没有照顾好她的孩子。

<同义替换> ignore

5. **abuse** /ə'bjuz/ v. 四级/雅思/托福/GRE/考研 to treat a person or an animal in a cruel or violent way, especially sexually 虐待；（尤指）性虐待；伤害

例：All the children had been physically and emotionally abused.

所有这些儿童的身心都受到了摧残。

### 【短语】

1. **hook up with** : to start working with somebody 搭档工作

例：They formed the band in 2018, hooking up with bass player Ed Burns.

他们在 2018 年组建了乐队，与贝斯手 Ed Burns 保持联系。

### 【长难句】

One published by the Institute of Labour Economics, a German think-tank, by three American academics, found that missing ten maths classes reduced the chance of a high school student graduating on time by 8%.

句子的主干部分为：One found that missing ten maths classes reduced the chance of a high school student graduating on time by 8%. 其中 that missing ten maths classes reduced the chance of a high school student graduating on time by 8% 为**宾语从句**。整句话的意思是：一项研究报告发现，缺勤十节数学课会导致高中生按时毕业的几率降低 8%。

published by the Institute of Labour Economics 为**后置定语**，意思是：德国劳动经济研究所发布的

a German think-tank 为**同位语**，对 the Institute of Labour Economics 进行解释说明，意思是：德国智囊团

by three American academics 为**介词短语做状语**，对前文所说的研究报告进行解释说明，意思是：由三名美国学

者撰写的

What will it take to **coax** kids back into classrooms? Skipping school frequently is illegal and in many states parents can face **finer** or even jail. On August 15th Missouri's state supreme court **upheld** a law that permits jail time for parents if their children are **truant**. But there is little evidence that **criminalising truancy** prevents much of it. And because chronic absenteeism is powerfully **correlated** with disadvantage, enforcing such laws would hurt the poorest families. In Washington, dc, three-fifths of pupils who were **eligible** for government assistance were truant.

怎样才能把孩子们哄回教室呢？频繁逃学是违法的。在许多州，家长可能面临罚款甚至监禁。8月15日，密苏里州最高法院支持一项法律，即如果孩子逃学，父母可能面临牢狱之灾。但几乎没有证据表明，将旷课定为犯罪能在很大程度上阻止这种行为。由于长期旷课多发生在贫困家庭，执行这样的法律将伤害社会底层家庭。在华盛顿特区，有资格获得政府援助的学生中，有五分之三的人逃学。

### 【词汇】

1. **coax** /kəʊks/ v. to persuade somebody to do something by talking to them in a kind and gentle way 哄劝；劝诱

例：She coaxed the horse into coming a little closer.

她哄着那匹马让它再靠近了一点。

2. **fine** /faɪn/ n. a sum of money that must be paid as punishment for breaking a law or rule 罚金；罚款

例：I got a parking fine for parking on double yellow lines.

我由于在双黄线停车被罚款了。

3. **uphold** /ʌp'həʊld/ v. 六级/雅思/托福/GRE/考研/专八 (especially of a court of law 尤指法庭) to agree that a previous decision was correct or that a request is reasonable 维持（原判）；受理（申诉）

例：to uphold a conviction/an appeal/a complaint

维持原判；受理上诉 / 申诉

4. **truant** /'tru:ənt/ n. 雅思/专八 a child who stays away from school without permission 旷课的小学生

例：persistent truants

老是逃学的学生

5. **criminalise** /'krɪmɪnəlaɪz/ v. to make something illegal by passing a new law（通过新的法律）使不合法，使非法

例：The government has introduced new legislation to criminalize computer hacking.

政府推行了新的法规把非法侵入计算机列为犯罪行为。



6. **truancy** /'tru:ənsi/ n. the practice of staying away from school without permission 旷课；逃学

例：Truancy rates at the school are very high.

学校的逃学率很高。

7. **correlate** /'kɔ:rəleɪt/ v. 六级/雅思/托福/GRE/考研/专八 if two or more facts, figures, etc. correlate or if a fact, figure, etc. correlates with another, the facts are closely connected and affect or depend on each other 相互关联影响；相互依赖

例：The figures do not seem to correlate.

这些数字似乎毫不相干。

8. **eligible** /'elɪdʒəbl/ adj. 雅思/GRE/考研/专八 a person who is eligible for something or to do something, is able to have or do it because they have the right qualifications, are the right age, etc. 有资格的；合格的；具备条件的

例：Only those over 70 are eligible for the special payment.

只有 70 岁以上的人才有资格领取这项专款。

<同义替换> qualified

There are few easy **fixes**, though some look for them. In Chicago, at the start of this year, the schools inspector-general **accused** several schools of **misreporting** truant (or entirely missing) children as having **transferred** to other schools to **mask** absenteeism. Almost half of pupils in the city were reported absent in 2021-22. Most teachers, however, are simply trying to adapt. “Our youngsters, the competition for their attention has never been more difficult,” **sighs** a teacher in a New York City middle school. The challenge, he says, is to “make kids **gravitate to** school”. **Mass** education needs **mass**.

尽管有些人在极力寻找解决办法，但还是一筹莫展。在芝加哥，今年年初，几所学校误报逃学（或完全不上学）数据，将其转到其他学校以掩盖旷课事实，遭到了学校监察长的指责。据报道，在 2021 至 2022 学年，该市几乎有一半的学生缺课。然而，大多数教师只是在努力适应这种现象。纽约市一所中学的一位老师感叹道：“让我们的年轻人专心学习从未像现在这样困难。”他说，挑战在于“让孩子们热爱学校”。大众教育需要大众。

### 【词汇】

1. **fix** /fɪks/ n. 四级/考研 a solution to a problem, especially an easy or temporary one（尤指简单、暂时的）解决方法

例：There is no quick fix for the steel industry.

钢铁工业的问题没有即时解决的办法。

<同义替换> method

2. **accuse** /ə'kju:z/ v. to say that somebody has done something wrong or is guilty of something 控告；控诉；谴责

例：She accused him of lying.

她指责他说谎。

3. **misreport** /,mɪsrɪ'pɔ:rt/ v. to give a report of an event, etc. that is not correct 误报；错报；谎报

例：The newspapers misreported the facts of the case.

报纸对案情的报道有误。

4. **transfer** /træns'fɜ:r/ v. 四级/雅思/考研 to move from one job, school, situation, etc. to another; to arrange for somebody to move (使) 调动；转职；转学；改变 (环境)

例：Children usually transfer to secondary school at 11 or 12.

儿童通常在 11 或 12 岁时升读中学。

5. **mask** /mæsk/ v. 四级/雅思/GRE/考研 to hide a feeling, smell, fact, etc. so that it cannot be easily seen or noticed

掩饰；掩藏

例：She masked her anger with a smile.

她用微笑来掩饰她的愤怒。

6. **sigh** /saɪ/ v. to take and then let out a long deep breath that can be heard, to show that you are disappointed, sad, tired, etc. 叹气；叹息

例：He sighed deeply at the thought.

想到这里，他深深叹了口气。

7. **mass** /mæs/ adj. affecting or involving a large number of people or things 大批的；数量极多的；广泛的

例：The world faces the tremendous problem of mass unemployment.

世界面临着大规模失业的巨大问题。

8. **mass** /mæs/ n. the most; the majority 大多数；多数

例：Their policies appeal to the broad mass of the population.

他们的政策受到广大民众的欢迎。

### 【短语】

1. **gravitate to** : to move towards somebody/something that you are attracted to 被吸引到；受吸引而转向

例：Many young people gravitate to the cities in search of work.

许多年轻人被吸引到城里找工作。



## 总结

## 1) 文章架构

- **背景**
  - 疫情期间，孩子们远程上学；疫情消退后，线下课堂难以恢复
  - “长期旷课”的现象严重
- **原因**
  - 主要原因：习惯了远程教育
  - 次要原因：缺乏交通工具，贫困，天气原因
- **问题**
  - 现象：入学率也在下降
  - 原因：美国学龄儿童的数量正在减少；私立学校入学人数增多；在家上学的人数增加
- **思考**
  - 去学校上学的重要性：享受各种权利；学习社交等实用技能；保证教学质量；参加课外活动并学习体育运动
  - 改善旷课现象的措施：旷课违法，但成效不明显
  - 鼓励学生回归课堂，实现大众教育

## 2) 同义替换

## ✓ 旷课；逃学

**truancy**

But there is little evidence that criminalising truancy prevents much of it.

但几乎没有证据表明，将旷课定为犯罪能在很大程度上阻止这种行为。

**absenteeism**

...“chronic absenteeism”...

... “长期旷课” ...

**其他：non-attendance**

例: the problems of children’s non-attendance at school

儿童旷课的问题

## ✓ 令人惊恐的；令人震惊的

**terrifying**

As they start the 2023-24 school year, a terrifying proportion still seem barely to be back.

随着 2023 至 2024 学年的开启，绝大部分学生仍然没有回归线下课堂，令人震惊。

**alarming**

This alarming absenteeism is coinciding with falls in enrolment.

令人震惊的旷课现象层出不穷的同时，入学人数也在骤降。

**其他：astonishing/stunning**

例: I find it absolutely astonishing that you didn't like it.

你不喜欢它，我感到难以置信。

**3) 一词多义**✓ **skip**

✓ 文章原句：Students skip school for many reasons: lack of transport, poverty, the weather. 导致学生缺勤的原因有很多：缺乏交通工具，贫困，天气原因。

✓ 释义：

① **to not do something that you usually do or should do** 不做（应做的事等）；不参加

I often ~ breakfast altogether.

我常常干脆不吃早饭。

② **to move forwards lightly and quickly making a little jump with each step** 蹦蹦跳跳地走

She ~ happily along beside me.

她连蹦带跳，高高兴兴地跟着我走。

③ **to leave a place secretly or suddenly** 悄悄溜走；突然离开

The bombers ~ the country shortly after the blast.

爆炸后不久，放置炸弹的人就逃离了这个国家。

✓ **tuition**

✓ 文章原句：Exactly what that means for the quality of tuition children are receiving is unclear. 这对孩子们接受的教学质量究竟有什么影响尚不清楚。

✓ 释义：

① **the act of teaching something, especially to one person or to people in small groups**（尤

指对个人或小组的) 教学, 讲授, 指导

She received private ~ in French.

她由私人教授法语。

② **the money that you pay to be taught, especially in a college or university** (尤指大专院校的) 学费

He won't be able to finish his education unless someone pays his ~.

除非有人帮他付学费, 否则他将无法完成他的学业。

#### 4) 仿写训练

✓ 描述同时发生的事件

✓ 文章原句:

This alarming absenteeism is coinciding with falls in enrolment...Some of this is because the number of school-age children in America is shrinking, and a small part reflects a shift to private schools. But much seems to be the result of families opting out of school entirely. Private school attendance increased by 4%; homeschooling rose by 30%.

✓ 句型及表达:

This...is coinciding with... ..发生的同时, 也出现了...

Some of this is because..., and a small part reflects... 一部分原因是..., 一小部分反映了...

But much seems to be the result of... 但似乎主要是...导致的结果

✓ 仿写示例:

This alarming financial crisis is coinciding with falls in employment. Some of this is because the number of laid-offs is swelling, and a small part reflects a revolution happening in the labor market. But much seems to be the result of the recession.

✓ 仿写作业——描述同时发生的事件

内卷现象令人震惊, 与此同时, 青少年自杀率也在飙升。这部分是因为青少年的抑郁率呈螺旋式上升, 还有一小部分反映了青少年心理健康出现了危机。但这在很大程度上是巨大的学业压力造成的。



## 5) 主题词总结

今日主题——学校出勤	
1. absenteeism	缺勤；旷课
2. truancy	逃学
3. attendance	出勤
4. chronic absenteeism	长期旷课
5. remote learning	远程学习