

Meta's blockbuster trial draws parallels to big tobacco

Meta重磅诉讼为何让人想到烟草业

But investors aren't panicking yet

投资者尚未陷入恐慌

The Economist · 2026-08-18



暗色背景中的马克·扎克伯格侧面近照。

难度 72 / 100

建议70–90分钟；选做作文另计。

适用读者：能阅读一般英语新闻，希望读准长句、搭配与作者语气的学习者。

入门准备：能辨认基本主谓结构和常见从句，愿意结合语境查词。

About this lesson 本课导读

一场诉讼怎样同时成为法律事件、商业风险和媒体故事？本文以2026年8月18日开庭时的视角，区分双方主张、潜在金额与经营方式变化，并追问巨额法律结果能否消除行业伤害。

- 辨明指控、抗辩与裁判的不同角色
- 理解附条件金额和经营风险
- 读懂多层修饰与让步结构
- 准确概括一则法律商业报道

Before you read 读前思考

What would you need to know before treating a large amount mentioned in a lawsuit as a company's actual loss?

拓展例句与练习情境用于说明用法。

书末答案 (p.14)

Text 课文

[P01] IN EARLY OCTOBER a sequel to “The Social Network”, a film about Mark Zuckerberg’s founding of Facebook, is scheduled for release.^{V01} Called “The Social Reckoning”, it will dramatise the role of whistleblowers who alleged that the tech giant hid the fact that its products were harmful.^{V02V03V04K01} Some of the characters involved will take part in a no less vivid drama involving Facebook, Instagram and their parent company, Meta, in a federal courtroom in Oakland, California. Oral arguments started on August 18th. Reckoning or not, the trial may be a blockbuster.^{V05}



暗色背景中的马克·扎克伯格侧面近照。

[P02] California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are leading a group of 29 states that are suing Meta over allegations that its platforms developed features harmful to children, and that it violated their privacy.^{V06K02} In opening arguments, Megan O’Neill, a deputy attorney-general for California, said that Meta’s business model was to “hook the users, hold them for as long as they can, harvest their data and then hide the truth from the public.”^{V07V08} Rob Bonta, California’s attorney-general, has described the case as Meta’s “tobacco moment”, likening the firm’s alleged deceptions to those that led to huge payouts by tobacco firms in the 1990s.^{V09V10}

[P03] Paul Schmidt, a lawyer for Meta, told jurors that the company took its responsibility to young users seriously, adding that there was no clear link between youngsters’ social-media use and ill health.^{V11} Meta is expected to fight efforts by the plaintiffs to turn the trial into a referendum on the impact of social media on children, focusing instead on the narrow legal issues in dispute.^{V12V13V14K03} Its lawyers have asked why it is being singled out, when youngsters’ use of YouTube, owned by Google, and TikTok, created by China’s ByteDance, is even higher than it is of Instagram.^{V15}

[P04] A lot is at stake.^{V16} In a similar case brought by the government of New Mexico, a judge this month ordered Meta to pay almost \$950m in penalties.^{V17} The four states acting as plaintiffs in Oakland appear to be seeking more than 200 times as much if Meta loses the case, putting

25 their estimate at \$193bn—roughly equivalent to the firm’s revenue in 2025. If that were a benchmark for other states, it would devastate Meta.^{V18V19K04}

[P05] Whether it comes to that is another matter, though.^{K05} In emotive language, Ms O’Neill alleged that Meta particularly targeted young children.^{V20} She frequently used the word “hooked”. But unlike a trial in Los Angeles in March, in which Meta and Google, were obliged
30 to pay damages to a 20-year-old harmed by spending much of her life on social media, the Oakland case is not focused on addiction.^{V21V22}

[P06] Instead it is what one of the attorneys-general calls “the largest consumer-protection lawsuit in American history”.^{K06} Vincent Joralemon, of the University of California’s Berkeley Centre for Law & Technology, says the big question is whether or not Meta deceived the public
35 about the impact of its products. That is similar to the tobacco cases. It also means whistleblower testimony is likely to be more relevant than thorny psychological debates about addiction, reckons Mr Joralemon.^{V23V24}

[P07] Meta’s investors tend to think that the burden of proof on the deception charges is “quite high”, says Gil Luria of D.A. Davidson, an investment bank.^{V25} Litigation risk has weighed
40 on Meta’s valuation, contributing to an earnings ratio that is lower than those of its big-tech peers.^{V26K07} But rather than fearing a giant payout, shareholders worry more about remedial changes that the prosecutors may seek if Meta loses in court, according to Mr Luria.^{V27K08} Those include changes to features Meta, Google and TikTok use to keep user engagement high, such as “infinite scroll”, which continuously loads new posts.^{V28} “If we didn’t have infinite scroll,
45 we wouldn’t have as many ads,” Mr Luria says.

[P08] Even if Meta loses, it has scope for appeal.^{V29} It could, for instance, do so on the grounds that it is protected by Section 230 of the Communications Act, which safeguards internet platforms from legal liability for content posted by third parties.^{V30V31K09} It sought to use that argument to halt the Oakland trial before it started, but the judge ruled that the appeal was
50 premature.^{V32}

[P09] Public concern in America about the impact of social media on children is high, and being dragged through the courts may not help Meta’s image with parents. In order to head off similar worries about AI, on August 18th OpenAI launched ChatGPT for Teens, which strengthens guardrails for under 18-year-olds.^{V33}

55 [P10] For all the attention the Meta trial will receive, court verdicts can have less of an impact than the headlines suggest.^{V34K10} The tobacco industry agreed in a settlement of 1998 to shell out more than \$200bn over 25 years.^{V35} But such outcomes have a “disappointing history” in America, says Matthew Lawrence of the Emory University School of Law. “We can mitigate the harms of industries exploiting addiction, but we have not yet had great success in finding
60 ways to eliminate the harms.”^{V36}

New words and expressions 生词和短语

按原文出现顺序排列；*为优先练习表达。

V01 · P01 sequel

/ˈsiːkwəl/ n. 续集

a sequel to ... , 介词to连接前作。

V02 · P01 reckoning

/ˈrekənɪŋ/ n. 清算；需要面对后果的时刻

电影名与审判后果形成呼应，不表示已经判有责任。

V03 · P01 whistleblower

/ˈwɪsəlˌbləʊə/ n. 揭发内部不当行为者；举报者

其testimony是证据材料之一，不能仅凭身份断定所有主张属实。

V04 · P01 allege*

/əˈledʒ/ v. 指控；提出尚待证明的指控

allege that ... ; alleged deception应保留“被指”的距离。

The customer alleged that the supplier had concealed a defect.

客户指称供应商隐瞒了一项缺陷。

V05 · P01 blockbuster

/ˈblɒkˌbʌstə/ n. 轰动作品；引起巨大关注的事件

从电影票房语境借到诉讼，形容关注度和潜在规模。

V06 · P02 violate

/ˈvɪəleɪt/ v. 侵犯；违反

violate privacy侵犯隐私，violate a rule违反规则。

V07 · P02 hook

/hʊk/ v. 吸引并牢牢抓住；使着迷

hook users是原告方用语；不由这个词本身证明医学上的成瘾。

V08 · P02 harvest

/ˈhɑːvɪst/ v. 大规模收集

harvest data从收获庄稼引申，强调获取数据。

V09 · P02 liken to*

/ˈlaɪkən tuː/ phr. v. 把.....比作.....

liken A to B, 比较某些方面，不宣布两案完全相同。

The critic likened the exhibition to a conversation across centuries.

评论者把展览比作跨越几个世纪的对话。

V10 · P02 deception

/dɪˈsepʃən/ n. 欺骗行为

与addiction不同，前者关注是否误导，后者关注依赖和行为状态。

V11 · P03 juror

/dʒʊərə/ n. 陪审员

听取证据并依程序作出判断的陪审团成员。

V12 · P03 plaintiff

/ˈpleɪntɪf/ n. 原告

提起民事诉讼的一方；被告一方为defendant。

V13 · P03 referendum

/ˌrefəˈrendəm/ n. 全民公决；此处比喻广泛评判

turn the trial into a referendum为比喻，并非真的举行全民投票。

V14 · P03 in dispute*

/ɪn dɪˈspjuːt/ phr. 存在争议的

the issues in dispute, 后置说明哪些问题尚未解决。

V15 · P03 single out*

/ˌsɪŋɡəl ˈaʊt/ phr. v. 挑出单独对待

be singled out, 强调从比较群体中专门挑出。

One team was singled out for praise after the inspection.

检查后，有一个团队被单独表扬。

V16 · P04 at stake*

/ət steɪk/ phr. 处于风险中；成败攸关

Much is at stake可指金额、声誉或其他重大利益。

V17 · P04 penalty

/ˈpenəlti/ n. 处罚；罚款

这里是法院命令支付的罚款；与补偿受害者的damages不能随意互换。

V18 · P04 benchmark

/ˈbentʃmɑːk/ n. 参照标准

此处为其他州金额判断的潜在参照，处于if条件之中。

V19 · P04 devastate

/devəsteɪt/ v. 使遭受重创

would devastate写假设后果，不是已发生损失。

V20 · P05 emotive

/ɪˈməʊtɪv/ adj. 激起强烈情绪的

描述语言引发情绪的力量，不自动否定或证实所述事实。

V21 · P05 damages

/ˈdæmɪdʒɪz/ plural n. 损害赔偿金

法律义项常用复数；一般damage为不可数的损害。

V22 · P05 addiction

/əˈdɪkʃən/ n. 成瘾

不要把诉讼焦点从欺骗偷换成所有争议都围绕成瘾。

V23 · P06 testimony

/ˈtestɪməni/ n. 证词

whistleblower testimony说明证词提供者，不是裁判结论。

V24 · P06 thorny

/ˈθɔːni/ adj. 棘手的；难解决的

由多刺引申，比喻争论难以处理。

V25 · P07 burden of proof

/bɜːdən əv 'pruːf/ n. phr. 举证责任；证明所需承担的要求

本文的quite high是投资者看法，不给出适用法律标准的完整定义。

V26 · P07 weigh on*

/weɪ ɒn/ phr. v. 对.....构成压力

weigh on valuation指压低估值；不是称量重量。

Uncertainty about repairs weighed on the buyer's decision.

维修方面的不确定性给买方决策带来压力。

V27 · P07 remedial

/rɪ'miːdiəl/ adj. 补救的；纠正性的

remedial changes指整改功能或做法，后果可持续影响业务。

V28 · P07 infinite

/ɪn'fɪnət/ adj. 无限的；无尽的

infinite scroll为界面机制，不声称内容在数学上无限。

V29 · P08 scope

/skəʊp/ n. 余地；空间

have scope for appeal表示存在上诉空间，不等于一定胜诉。

V30 · P08 on the grounds that*

/ɒn ðə graʊndz ðæt/ conj. phr. 以.....为理由

grounds在此用复数表示依据；后面给出具体主张。

V31 · P08 liability

/laɪə'bɪləti/ n. 法律责任

不是资产负债表里泛指负债的唯一用法。

V32 · P08 premature

/premətʃə/ adj. 过早的；时机未到

就程序时机而言过早，不等于理由在实体上永远不成立。

V33 · P09 head off*

/hed ɒf/ phr. v. 预先阻止；提前化解

head off worries意在减少担忧，不能凭推出措施就说已消除风险。

A clear explanation may head off unnecessary complaints.

清楚的解释或可提前化解不必要的投诉。

V34 · P10 verdict

/vɜːdɪkt/ n. 裁决；裁判结果

本文court verdicts概括裁判影响；不要与双方达成的settlement混同。

V35 · P10 shell out*

/ʃel aʊt/ phr. v. 付出；掏出大笔钱

较口语，常带不情愿或金额可观的感觉。

V36 · P10 mitigate*

/mɪtɪgeɪt/ v. 减轻；缓解

mitigate harms与eliminate harms目标不同，减轻不等于归零。

Extra training may mitigate errors without eliminating them.

额外培训可能减少错误，却不能使其完全消失。

Notes on the text 课文注释

1 从银幕“清算”到法庭“大片”

[P01 / P02]

sequel、dramatise、characters、drama和blockbuster把电影词汇连成一条线。P1先介绍电影，再将人物带进法庭，no less vivid把两种戏剧性相比较；重点是叙事与关注度相似，不是说诉讼虚构。

Reckoning or not可以补理解为Whether there is a reckoning or not。它借片名追问公司是否需要面对后果，may仍保留可能性。P2的tobacco moment由州总检察长提出，类比集中在被指误导公众及潜在巨额赔付，不自动证明两个行业的科学、法律情形相同。

2 同一段“有害事实”，是谁在主张

[P01 / P02 / P03 / P05 / P06]

P1的who alleged that ... hid the fact that ...把有害这一内容包在举报者指称的范围里。中文出现“事实”是跟随原句措辞，不能据此将作者转述升级为法庭认定。P2的allegations、said与alleged再次标明原告立场；P3则转述Meta律师的否认。

读法律新闻可以问三件事：谁说的、说的是何种命题、法院是否已经就此作出裁判。本篇对青少年健康影响、隐瞒和公司责任展示不同主张；把双方句子拼成一组无来源的事实，会抹掉文章最重要的结构。

3 9.5亿、1930亿与营业收入

[P04 / P07]

P4先报告另一宗新墨西哥案的罚款，再谈奥克兰四州看起来正在寻求的金额。appear to be seeking及if Meta loses均限制后一个数字，putting their estimate at说明金额由四州提出。它既不是已判金额，也不等于29州每州各索赔1930亿美元。

按文中约数， $1930 \div 9.5$ 约为203，因而超过200倍；但前一个数本身为almost，不能把这个商当成精确比例。roughly equivalent比较的是营业收入，不是利润、现金储备或公司市值。P4最后再套一层假设：其他州若采用这个参照，才产生所说后果。

4 “钩住”不等于本案只审成瘾

[P03 / P05 / P06]

P5先写原告的情绪性用词，再用But unlike转向真正争点。洛杉矶案与奥克兰案在文中承担不同功能：前者用于对照成瘾损害，后者重点在于公司是否误导公众。不要把长修饰中的另一案赔偿误接到本案。

P6因此解释，内部举报者证词可能比棘手的成瘾心理学争论更相关。likely to be more relevant仍是被采访法学者的比较判断，不表示只须一个举报者出庭就必然胜诉。P3所谓referendum也不是法律程序名称，而是对宽泛社会评判的比喻。

5 一次付款与持续经营变化

[P07]

估值不仅会受一次巨额付款影响，也会受未来赚钱方式改变影响。weighed on描述诉讼风险给估值的压力；contributing to只说部分作用，不能把市盈率差异全归于此。earnings ratio在这里是市盈率，并非利润率。

infinite scroll让新内容连续加载，投资者担心整改后广告机会减少。情境设定：若每次使用原本平均展示10个广告，改版后为8个，而使用次数和单价均不变，广告展示量就可能下降20%；真实收入还受价格、用户行为和其他功能影响。原文说可能寻求整改，不是说这一假设已经发生。

6 把新闻时点与后续发展分开

[P01 / P04 / P08 / P09 / P10]

本文采用2026年8月18日开庭时的报道视角，this month、is expected与will均立足于当时。P9的产品发布信息也属于该时点叙述；本课练习考查文章如何表达，不将历史报道当作今天的产品说明或案件进度。

加州司法部门8月26日另行公告了一项拟议和解，称安排仍须法院通过同意判决批准，付款上限为170亿美元、分十年进行。这个后续公告说明P4的1930亿美元情景不宜当作最终结果；“拟议且待批准”同样不能被改写成所有款项已经支付。

Special difficulties 难点辨析

1 penalties、damages与settlement

[P04 / P05 / P10]

penalties强调制裁性质，damages指因损害而支付的赔偿；同样是付钱，法律作用并不相同。settlement是当事方解决争议的和解安排，可能涉及付款与行为要求，不能简单译为法院认定全部指控属实。

P7把参与民事消费者保护执法的官员泛称prosecutors，语境中可理解为原告方执法人员；不要因为这个词就把整案改写成针对Meta高管的刑事起诉。P10的mitigate与eliminate则区分减少程度与完全消除。

2 长句里的多余逗号与省略比较

[P03 / P05]

P5原文在Meta and Google与were obliged之间多放了逗号。正常句法中，这里不应把并列主语与谓语隔开；读时把主语和were obliged接起来，而不要把这处标点当作可模仿的句型。

P3的use of YouTube ... and TikTok ... is higher than it is of Instagram，比较项是青少年使用程度。后半it承接use所指的量，理解为than their use of Instagram；不是说Instagram公司高于另两家公司。

Background 背景与延伸

1 第230条保护什么，不由一句话包办

[P08]

美国法典47 U.S.C. §230(c)(1)针对一种责任处理：不把交互式计算机服务提供者或用户，当作由其他内容提供者提供信息的发布者或发言者。P8据此概括平台对第三方内容的保护，但平台自身行为与内容开发角色等仍须具体区分。

条文本身还涉及其他法律的适用和例外，并不是“互联网公司的一切行为均免责”。本篇谈Meta可能主张的上诉理由；premature所说的程序时机，也不是法院已经最终认可或永远否定全部保护范围。

2 烟草和解不只是一次巨额支票

[P10]

美国全国州总检察长协会介绍，1998年《主和解协议》处理了多州与烟草公司的诉讼，既设付款义务，也限制面向青少年的营销等行为。因此P10的烟草类比，既能联系金额，也能联系P7改变经营方式的担忧。

原文用25年内超过2000亿美元概括长期规模；不能据此推成全部付款在第25年一律停止。协会说明，只要参与和解的公司仍在美国销售卷烟，年度付款义务持续。减少危害与消除危害的距离，则是P10引语的评价重点。

Key structures 关键句型

K01 · P01 Called ... , it will ... who alleged that ...

Called "The Social Reckoning", it will dramatise the role of whistleblowers who alleged that the tech giant hid the fact that its products were harmful.

这部名为《社交清算》的影片，将把举报者的作用搬上银幕；这些举报者曾指称，这家科技巨头隐瞒了其产品有害这一事实。

Called ...相当于被称为某名字，逻辑主语是it，也就是续集。主句it will dramatise the role of whistleblowers之后，who修饰举报者，alleged带出他们的指称。不能把Called接到举报者身上。

alleged that包含the giant hid the fact that ...，最后一个that从句解释the fact的内容。层层嵌套让“产品有害”处在举报者所提出的说法中；读者需一直保留这个归属，不能拆开后变成作者独立确认。

Called "Second Chances", the exhibition follows residents who said that the closure had changed their neighbourhood.

这场名为《第二次机会》的展览，跟随一些居民的故事；他们说，那次关闭改变了自己的社区。

K02 · P02 allegations that ... and that ...

California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are leading a group of 29 states that are suing Meta over allegations that its platforms developed features harmful to children, and that it violated their privacy.

加利福尼亚、科罗拉多、肯塔基和新泽西四州，正牵头29州起诉Meta，指控其平台开发了有害儿童的功能，并侵犯了儿童隐私。

四州是are leading的主语；a group of 29 states后that are suing说明这个群体正在做什么。这里复数are对应states的意义，不能把29州都误认成P4所说的四个开庭原告。

over allegations后两个that并列说明指控内容：平台开发有害功能，以及Meta侵犯隐私。features harmful to children中的harmful短语后置修饰features；it与their分别对应Meta和儿童。

The agency investigated allegations that the product had dangerous faults and that the seller had hidden complaints.

该机构调查了关于产品存在危险缺陷、卖方隐瞒投诉的指控。

K03 · P03 is expected to ... efforts ... to turn ... , focusing ...

Meta is expected to fight efforts by the plaintiffs to turn the trial into a referendum on the impact of social media on children, focusing instead on the narrow legal issues in dispute.

预计Meta会抵制原告将审判变成一场关于社交媒体对儿童影响的全民评判，而把重点放在存在争议的具体法律问题上。

Meta is expected to fight ...表示预计它会抵制某种努力，不是说它已成功阻止。efforts后by the plaintiffs说明是谁的努力，to turn A into B说明这番努力的目标。

focusing instead ...的逻辑主语仍为Meta，与主句策略相连：把焦点放在具体争议上。narrow此处是范围较具体，不必译成心胸狭窄；referendum是作者转述的比喻目标。

The company is expected to resist efforts to turn the meeting into a general debate, focusing instead on the proposed repairs.

预计公司会抵制把会议变成泛泛辩论的努力，而聚焦于所提出的维修方案。

K04 · P04 If that were ... , it would ...

If that were a benchmark for other states, it would devastate Meta.

如果这成为其他州的参照标准，将给Meta造成毁灭性打击。

that承接前面四州提出的1930亿美元估算，用作其他州的benchmark是一种设想。were与would配合，表达假设后果；这句话并不报告各州已一致采用该数。

主句it承接采用这一参照的情形。不要把条件句里的were看成仅仅回忆过去，也不要吧would devastate译成已造成毁灭性打击。

If that estimate were the basis for every regional budget, it would leave little money for repairs.

如果那项估算成为各地区预算的基础，维修可用的资金就会所剩无几。

K05 · P05 Whether it comes to that is ...

Whether it comes to that is another matter, though.

不过，事情是否会发展到那一步，是另一回事。

Whether it comes to that整个从句作主语，is是主句谓语，another matter为表语。内部it指事情发展，that指前文所设想的严重后果，不是某个具体州。

whether表达是否，句末though转折收束：金额虽大，是否真走到那一步要另说。这句话在段落之间给P4的戏剧性情景降温，不等于说风险为零。

Whether the project reaches that scale is another matter, though.

不过，项目是否会达到那个规模，是另一回事。

K06 · P06 it is what ... calls ...

Instead it is what one of the attorneys-general calls “the largest consumer-protection lawsuit in American history”.

相反，这是一位州总检察长所称的“美国历史上最大的消费者保护诉讼”。

主句it is ...的it指奥克兰案，what ... calls ...作为表语，整体表示某位总检察长对该案的称呼。one of the attorneys-general是从多位总检察长中选出一位；one作中心，因此calls为单数。

what在calls结构中对应被称呼的对象，后面的引号内容为给它的名称。这种转述保留“谁称其最大”，不要求读者先把最大这一评价当作作者独立比较所得。

The new system is what one of the engineers calls “a bridge between two generations of equipment”.

这套新系统，就是其中一位工程师所称的“两代设备之间的桥梁”。

K07 · P07 contributing to ... that is lower than those ...

Litigation risk has weighed on Meta’s valuation, contributing to an earnings ratio that is lower than those of its big-tech peers.

诉讼风险压低了Meta的估值，也是其市盈率低于大型科技同行的原因之一。

主句Litigation risk has weighed on Meta’s valuation，后面的contributing说明相关作用。to an earnings ratio引出受影响的指标，that is lower ...修饰这个ratio。

those代替同行的earnings ratios，避免重复，比较双方都是市盈率而非一个比率与多家公司本身。contributing to只表示一个影响因素；句子不证明风险是全部估值差异的原因。

Repeated delays have weakened demand, contributing to renewal rates that are lower than those of comparable services.

反复延误削弱了需求，也是续订率低于同类服务的原因之一。

K08 · P07 rather than ... , worry more about ... that ... may ...

But rather than fearing a giant payout, shareholders worry more about remedial changes that the prosecutors may seek if Meta loses in court, according to Mr Luria.

但据卢里亚说，与其说股东担忧巨额赔款，不如说他们更担心Meta败诉后，原告方可能寻求的整改。

句首先比较两种担忧，主句shareholders worry more about remedial changes。rather than不是绝对排除巨额付款风险；more表明相对更在意整改。

that the prosecutors may seek修饰changes，that充当seek的宾语；if Meta loses再限制寻求整改的情境。may与if都要保留，according to Mr Luria标出这番判断的来源。

Rather than fearing a one-day delay, customers worry more about changes that the supplier may make if costs rise.

与其担忧延误一天，客户更担忧供应商可能在成本上升时作出的调整。

K09 · P08 do so on the grounds that ... , which ...

It could, for instance, do so on the grounds that it is protected by Section 230 of the Communications Act, which safeguards internet platforms from legal liability for content posted by third parties.

例如，它可以以自身受到《通信法》第230条保护为由提出上诉；该条款保护互联网平台，免于因第三方发布的内容承担相应法律责任。

do so承接上一句提出上诉，不是再次败诉。on the grounds that ...引出可能使用的依据，it指Meta；could for instance说明这只是一个例子。

which修饰Section 230，safeguards A from B说明保护对象与责任风险；content posted by third parties中posted为被动修饰，第三方才是发布内容者。这个概括不等于平台一切活动都有同样保护。

The team could request a review on the grounds that a delivery rule, which covers orders placed before June, applies to its case.

团队可以申请复查，理由是一项适用于6月前订单的交付规则涵盖其情况。

K10 · P10 For all ... , can have less ... than ...

For all the attention the Meta trial will receive, court verdicts can have less of an impact than the headlines suggest.

尽管Meta审判会受到广泛关注，法院裁判产生的影响，可能小于新闻标题所暗示的程度。

For all the attention ...表示尽管有这么多关注，for all不是为了所有人。attention后的the trial will receive是省略关系词的修饰：审判将得到的关注。

主句court verdicts can have less of an impact，can谈可能性，than the headlines suggest比较实际影响与标题暗示的程度。结尾不是说裁判无用，而是引出减轻与消除危害之间的落差。

For all the publicity the campaign will receive, it may change less than its organisers expect.

尽管这场活动将获得大量宣传，它带来的改变可能少于组织者的预期。

Exercises 练习与写作

Comprehension 理解

用自己的话回答，标明观点归属和条件。

- 02 How does the opening connect film and litigation?
- 03 What distinction separates the Oakland case from the Los Angeles comparison in the article?
- 04 Is \$193bn described as a final payment? Explain.
- 05 Why might business changes worry investors more than a large payout?
- 06 What does premature tell us about Meta's earlier appeal attempt?

07 What limitation does the final quotation place on the tobacco comparison?

Words in use 词汇

用词库填空，每项一次。

词库：alleged / singled out / at stake / head off / mitigate

08 The customer ____ that the guarantee had been misleading.

09 One supplier was ____ for additional checks after repeated delays.

10 The firm's reputation was ____ during the dispute.

11 An early explanation may ____ unnecessary confusion.

12 Better supervision may ____ the harm without removing it completely.

Key structures 句型

明确修饰对象，保留转述与假设语气。

13 What is called The Social Reckoning in P1?

14 Which two claims follow allegations in P2's opening sentence?

15 Who is focusing on the narrow legal issues in P3?

16 Use If ... were ... would: "Using that price as a benchmark could leave no money for repairs."

17 Identify the complete subject of Whether it comes to that is another matter.

18 Why is calls singular in what one of the attorneys-general calls ...?

19 What does those replace in lower than those of its big-tech peers?

20 Does P7's rather than comparison mean shareholders have no fear of a payout?

21 What does do so stand for in P8?

22 Replace Although with For all: "Although the project will attract attention, its impact may be small."

Listening 听读

先听立场转换，再听金额与条件。

23 Identify one plaintiff claim, one defence argument and one investor concern in the recording.

Summary writing 摘要

用90–110词概括本文开庭时的主要争点和商业含义。

24 Write a 90–110-word summary of the article's account at the start of the trial.

Composition 作文 (选做)

选做：用100–120词说明如何写清楚一则诉讼新闻。

25 Explain how a short news report can remain clear without turning allegations into established facts.

Reference translation 参考译文

P01 电影《社交网络》的续集计划于10月初上映；前作讲述马克·扎克伯格创办Facebook的故事。这部名为《社交清算》的影片，将把举报者的作用搬上银幕；这些举报者曾指称，这家科技巨头隐瞒了其产品有害这一事实。其中一些相关人物，还将在加利福尼亚州奥克兰的一间联邦法庭里，参与另一场同样生动的戏剧，涉及Facebook、Instagram及其母公司Meta。口头辩论于8月18日开始。无论是否迎来清算，这场审判都可能轰动一时。

P02 加利福尼亚、科罗拉多、肯塔基和新泽西四州，正牵头29州起诉Meta，指控其平台开发了有害儿童的功能，并侵犯了儿童隐私。在开庭陈述中，加州副总检察长梅根·奥尼尔说，Meta的商业模式是“把用户钩住，尽可能长久地留住他们，收集他们的数据，然后对公众隐瞒真相”。加州总检察长罗布·邦塔将本案称为Meta的“烟草时刻”，把该公司被指存在的欺骗行为，比作那些曾导致烟草公司在20世纪90年代巨额赔付的行为。

P03 Meta的律师保罗·施密特告诉陪审员，公司认真承担对年轻用户的责任，并补充说，青少年使用社交媒体与健康不佳之间，并没有明确联系。预计Meta会抵制原告将审判变成一场关于社交媒体对儿童影响的全民评判，而把重点放在存在争议的具体法律问题上。其律师质问，既然青少年对谷歌旗下YouTube及中国字节跳动所创办TikTok的使用程度，甚至高于对Instagram的使用程度，为什么单单针对Meta？

P04 利害关系重大。在新墨西哥州政府提起的一宗类似案件中，法官本月责令Meta支付接近9.5亿美元罚款。在奥克兰担任原告的四州，似乎打算在Meta败诉的情况下，寻求超过该金额200倍的款项；它们提出的估算为1930亿美元，大致相当于该公司2025年的营业收入。如果这成为其他州的参照标准，将给Meta造成毁灭性打击。

P05 不过，事情是否会发展到那一步，是另一回事。奥尼尔女士用充满感情色彩的语言指称，Meta尤其针对低龄儿童。她频繁使用“被钩住”一词。然而，奥克兰案并不以成瘾为焦点，不同于3月洛杉矶的一场审判：在那宗案件中，Meta和谷歌被责令向一名20岁女子支付损害赔偿，因为她将大量人生时间花在社交媒体上而受到伤害。

P06 相反，这是一位州总检察长所称的“美国历史上最大的消费者保护诉讼”。加州大学伯克利分校法律与技术中心的文森特·乔拉莱蒙说，核心问题是Meta是否在其产品影响方面欺骗了公众。这一点与烟草案相似。乔拉莱蒙认为，这也意味着，相较于围绕成瘾展开的棘手心理学争论，举报者证词可能更为相关。

P07 投行D.A. Davidson的吉尔·卢里亚说，Meta投资者往往认为，对欺骗指控所负的举证要求“相当高”。诉讼风险压低了Meta的估值，也是其市盈率低于大型科技同行的原因之一。但据卢里亚说，与其说股东担忧巨额赔款，不如说他们更担心Meta败诉后，原告方可能寻求的整改。这些措施包括改变Meta、谷歌和TikTok用来维持较高用户参与度的功能，比如不断加载新帖子的“无限滚动”。卢里亚说：“如果没有无限滚动，我们就不会有那么多广告。”

P08 即使Meta败诉，它仍有提出上诉的空间。例如，它可以以自身受到《通信法》第230条保护为由提出上诉；该条款保护互联网平台，免于因第三方发布的内容承担相应法律责任。它曾试图以这一理由，在奥克兰审判开始前叫停审判，但法官裁定上诉为时过早。

P09 美国公众高度关切社交媒体对儿童的影响，而被卷入法庭诉讼，可能无助于Meta在家长心中的形象。为预先化解对人工智能的类似担忧，OpenAI于8月18日推出ChatGPT for Teens，为18岁以下用户加强防护措施。

P10 尽管Meta审判会受到广泛关注，法院裁判产生的影响，可能小于新闻标题所暗示的程度。烟草业在1998年的一项和解中，同意在25年内支付超过2000亿美元。但埃默里大学法学院的马修·劳伦斯说，这类结果在美国有着一段“令人失望的历史”。“我们可以减轻那些利用成瘾牟利的行业带来的伤害，但在寻找消除这些伤害的方法上，还没有取得很大成功。”

Reference answers 参考答案与解析

开放题不要求与参考答案逐字一致；先检查信息和意思，再修改表达。

Before you read 读前思考

01 读前思考

Who proposed the amount, whether a court has ordered payment, what conditions or appeals remain and whether the amount has been paid.

先确定金额所处阶段；原告请求不能自动等于已付款。

Comprehension 理解

02

It moves from a planned film sequel about whistleblowers to a courtroom involving some of the same people, using drama and blockbuster language for both.

关注叙事连接，不推成诉讼为虚构电影。

03

Oakland centres on alleged deception of the public, whereas the Los Angeles trial is presented as focusing on harm linked to addiction.

保留alleged；两案的赔偿与程序不能混在一起。

04

No. It is the four Oakland plaintiffs' apparent estimate of what they seek if Meta loses, followed by a further hypothetical comparison with other states.

必须提及提出方和条件，不能写成29州各获该金额。

05

Changes to features that sustain engagement may reduce advertising opportunities and affect future operations, rather than creating only a single payment.

这是文中Luria对投资者担忧的解释，不是已判定的业务结果。

06

The judge regarded the attempt as too early procedurally; that description alone does not decide the eventual merits of every liability argument.

区分程序时机与实体责任。

07

Legal outcomes may mitigate harm without successfully eliminating it, so large sums and public attention do not by themselves prove that the underlying problem has disappeared.

减轻不是零效果，消除也不能由金额推出。

Words in use 词汇

08

alleged

后接that内容；不把客户主张当成已经裁判。

09

singled out

was后用过去分词，说明被单独选出。

10

at stake

处于风险中的对象可以是声誉。

11

head off

may后用原形，强调提前化解。

12

mitigate

与完全消除形成对照。

Key structures 句型

13

The film sequel.

Called逻辑主语为it，不能接举报者。

14

That the platforms developed features harmful to children, and that Meta violated the children's privacy.

两项均为指控内容，不改成法院已确认的事实。

15

Meta.

focusing逻辑主语随主句，非原告。

16

If that price were used as a benchmark, it would leave no money for repairs.

按题意构造假设；the use of that price would ...等同义主语也可。

17

Whether it comes to that.

不能只取it，whether从句整体作主语。

18

The subject is one, although attorneys-general is plural within the of phrase.

不可由最近复数名词机械选择call。

19

The earnings ratios of the peers.

比较比率与比率。

20

No. It says they worry more about possible remedial changes.

保留程度比较和可能性。

21

Appeal or bring an appeal.

不是停止使用平台，也不是败诉。

22

For all the attention the project will attract, its impact may be small.

For all后接名词短语attention，保留may。

Listening 听读

23

A plaintiff claim concerns misleading the public; Meta's lawyer disputes a clear health link; investors worry about possible changes affecting engagement and advertising.

把说话角色与主张配对，合理的其他例子也可；不要只抄三个无归属句子。

Summary writing 摘要

24

Meta's Oakland trial invites comparisons with tobacco litigation because states allege that the company misled the public about harmful products. Meta disputes the claims and seeks to keep the case focused on specific legal issues. Although the potential amounts discussed are large, the article distinguishes the plaintiffs' demands from final outcomes. Investors are particularly concerned about possible changes to features that support engagement and advertising. Appeals may also affect the process. The tobacco comparison ultimately raises a broader question: legal action can produce substantial payments and reduce harm, but those results do not necessarily eliminate the underlying problems.

应保留allege、possible等限定，区分付款与业务整改，并解释结尾减轻/消除。摘要题限定开庭报道，不混入后续公告。

Composition 作文

25

A clear report should tell readers who is making each claim and what stage the case has reached. If a claimant asks for a large sum, the report should identify it as a demand, rather than a payment already ordered or received. It should describe the defendant's response without assuming that a denial settles the question. Comparisons with earlier cases can explain potential consequences, but differences in legal issues and remedies still matter. Finally, the writer should separate the article's original date from later developments. These distinctions allow readers to understand serious risks without treating every dramatic possibility as an outcome that has already occurred.

原创写作情境；给出至少两个可执行表达办法和一个前后区别。可讨论标题、时间或证据角色，勿只写保持客观的口号。