

# 我应该担心蓝光吗? Should I worry about blue light?

### 中文导读:

手机、平板电脑、电脑和其他设备发出的光对我们的健康有害吗?

Wherever you are reading this – on the couch or in bed – there is a good chance that you are doing it on some sort of screen. According to a 2022 review, almost everyone upped their screentime during the Covid pandemic, and there is little evidence that use has gone back down. While that may or may not be bad for all sorts of reasons, a concern for many people is blue light, and whether its haunting glow is affecting our bodies in ways sunshine doesn't. Could it somehow be bad light?

无论你是在沙发上还是在床上阅读这篇文章,都很有可能是在某种屏幕上进行的。 根据 2022 年的一项调查,在新冠疫情期间,几乎每个人都增加了他们的屏幕使用时间,而且几乎没有证据表明屏幕使用时间有所回落。 虽然出于种种原因,这可能是坏事,也可能不是,但许多人担心的是蓝光,以及蓝光是否会以阳光无法做到的方式影响我们的身体。蓝光会不会是一种不好的光?

### ■ 重点词汇:

screen: n. 屏幕; 屏风; v. 筛选; 审查

screentime: n. 屏幕使用时间

pandemic: n. 大流行病; 大流行; adj. 大范围传播的

**evidence**: n. 证据; 迹象

blue light: 蓝光 affect: v. 影响

sunshine: n. 阳光

### ■ 固定搭配:

according to: 根据

According to Chinese tradition, red is a lucky color.(按照中国传统,红色是吉祥的颜色。)

go back down: 下降; 减少

There is little evidence that use has gone back down. (几乎没有证据表明使用已经减少。)

be bad for: 对...有害

While that may or may not be bad for all sorts of reasons. (尽管出于各种原因这可能有害或无害。)

To start with the basics: blue light sits on the short-wave, high-energy end of the visible spectrum, close to the UV rays that can lead to provably harmful effects on the skin and retinas. In itself, this doesn't mean anything – the sun has been bathing us in blue light since we were hunter gatherers – but concerns arise from the fact that many people stare at blue-light emitting devices for hours at a time, sometimes from mere inches away, often long after the sun has gone down.

先从最基本的说起: 蓝光属于可见光谱中的短波高能量一端, 接近紫外线,可对皮肤和视网膜造成有害影响。就其本身而 言,这并不意味着什么——从我们狩猎时候起,太阳就已经让我们沐浴在蓝光之中了——但令人担忧的是,许多人盯着蓝光设备一看就是几个小时,有时距离只有几英寸,而且往往是在太阳下山很久之后。

### ■ 重点词汇:

**short-wave**: n. 短波; adj. 短波的 **high-energy**: n. 高能; adj. 高能的

visible spectrum:可见光谱

UV rays: 紫外线

provably: adv. 可证明地

skin: n. 皮肤

retina: n. 视网膜

hunter gatherer: n. 采集猎人(旧石器时代的人类社会)

**concern**: n. 担忧; 忧虑

stare at: 盯着

emit: v. 发射;排放

device: n. 设备

mere inches away: 仅几英寸远 sun has gone down: 太阳下山

## ■ 固定搭配:

to start with: 首先

To start with it's much too expensive... (首先是太贵...)

# 🛟 长难句分析:

总的来说,这句话首先介绍了蓝光的特性和与紫外线辐射的关系,然后指出尽管太阳一直都在照射蓝光,但问题出现在人们长时间盯着发射蓝光的设备上,这可能导致一些潜在危害。句子结构复杂,包含多个修饰短语和从句,用于详细说明相关概念和关系:

- 1. "**To start with the basics**": 这是引导句子的短语, 表示要从基础开始讨论。这个短语引入了整个话题。
- 2. "blue light sits on the short-wave, highenergy end of the visible spectrum": 这部分描述了 蓝光的特件。其中包括:
- "blue light": 蓝光是句子的主题, 讨论的对象。

- "sits on": 这是动词短语,表示位置,即蓝光位于可见光谱的短波、高能端。
- "the short-wave, high-energy end of the visible spectrum": 这是描述蓝光位置的修饰短语,指出它在可见光谱中的具体位置,具有短波和高能的特性。
- 3. "close to the UV rays": 这个短语指出蓝光与紫外线辐射 (UV rays) 相近。这是一个比较。
- 4. "that can lead to provably harmful effects on the skin and retinas": 这部分描述了紫外线辐射的潜在危害。它包括了以下要素:
- "that can lead to": 这是一个引导定语从句,用来描述紫外线辐射的可能影响。
- "provably harmful effects": 这表示紫外线辐射的危害是可以证明的,即已经被证实是有害的。
- "on the skin and retinas":这说明了危害影响的目标,包括皮肤和视网膜。
- 5. "In itself, this doesn't mean anything": 这是一个句子,表示前文提到的蓝光特性并不一定意味着什么。这是一个否定性的表述。
- 6. "the sun has been bathing us in blue light since we were hunter gatherers": 这部分提到了太阳照射蓝光的历史。它包括了以下要素:
- "the sun": 指的是太阳,是句子的主语。
- "has been bathing us": 这是动词短语,表示太阳一直在 "bathing" (照射) 我们,强调了这一历史性的事实。
- "in blue light": 这是修饰短语,说明太阳所照射的光是蓝光。
- "since we were hunter gatherers": 这部分说明了这一历史情境,即自人类还是狩猎采集者时,太阳就一直在照射蓝光。
- 7. "but concerns arise from": 这是句子的转折部分,表示问题的出现。它引导了接下来的描述。
- 8. "the fact that many people stare at blue-light emitting devices for hours at a time": 这部分指出问题的核心,即许多人长时间盯着发射蓝光的设备。它包括了以下要素:
- "the fact that":这是引导名词性从句的短语,引入了问题的原因。

- "many people": 这是句子的主语,指的是许多人。

- "stare at": 这是动词短语,表示盯着。

- "blue-light emitting devices": 这是描述设备的短语,说明了这些设备会发射蓝光。

- "for hours at a time": 这是时间状语短语,表示长时间,强调了问题的严重性。

Why might this be bad? Potential problems slot into three key areas, two of them interrelated: vision, sleep and broader health issues. Vision is potentially the most worrying – what if we have all been slowly destroying our eyes since the advent of smartphones? – but there is almost no evidence that this is a cause for concern.

为什么这可能很糟糕?潜在的问题主要有三个方面,其中两个相互关联:视力、睡眠和更广泛的健康问题。视力可能是最令人担忧的——如果自智能手机出现以来我们都在慢慢地损害我们的眼睛该怎么办?——但几乎没有证据表明这值得担忧。

### ■ 重点词汇:

potential: adj. 潜在的;可能的

slot into: 插入; 纳入 key area: 关键领域

interrelated: adj. 相互关联的

vision: n. 视觉; 视力

worrying: adj. 令人担忧的

destroy: v. 毁灭

**advent**: n. 出现; 到来

smartphone: n. 智能手机

#### ■ 固定搭配:

slot into: 插入; 纳入

Contract: A container is a standard size and has feet

that can slot into a hole on the roof of another

container.(合约:集装箱具有标准尺寸,并且可以插入到另一个集装箱顶部的洞中。)

what if: 如果...会怎么样

What if she forgets to bring it?(要是她忘记带来,会怎么样呢?)

One of the studies most commonly cited to support the idea that blue light causes eye damage, for instance, consisted of researchers combining "retinal," a chemical found in the eye, along with other cells, in a way that doesn't occur in live human eyes.

例如,最常被引用来支持蓝光会对眼睛造成伤害这一观点的研究之一,就是研究人员将"视网膜"(一种在眼睛中发现的化学物质)与其他细胞结合在一起,而这种结合方式在活的人的眼睛中是不会出现的。

### ■ 重点词汇:

cite: v. 引用

support: v. 支持

damage: v. 损坏,损害;对……造成坏影响

for instance: 例如 consist of: 由...组成

researcher: n. 研究人员

combine: v. 结合

retinal: n. 视黄醛(一种眼睛中的化学物质)

chemical: n. 化学物质

in a way that: 以一种方式

Elsewhere, studies on rats have shown that blue light might damage cells in the retina, but – once again – these studies were conducted in vitro, which means that they don't tell us much (rats are also nocturnal, so may not react like humans to

blue light – worth bearing in mind if you are concerned that excess tablet time might lead to early puberty). Human studies under realistic conditions are pretty much nonexistent because LED use is relatively new, but opthalmologists don't see much cause for concern at present.

在其他方面,对大鼠的研究表明,蓝光可能会损害视网膜细胞,但这些研究也是在体外进行的,这意味着它们并不能说明什么(大鼠也是夜行性动物,因此可能不像人类那样对蓝光有反应—— 如果你担心过多的平板电脑时间可能会导致青春期提前,那就值得注意了)。因为 LED 的使用还相对较新,现实条件下的人体研究几乎不存在,但眼科专家认为目前还没有必要担心。

### ■ 重点词汇:

elsewhere: adv. 在别处; 在其他地方

rat: n. 大鼠; 老鼠

cell: n. 细胞

in vitro: 体外; 离体

nocturnal: adj. 夜行性的

react: v. 反应

worth bearing in mind: 值得记住

excess: n. 过多

tablet: n. 平板电脑

early puberty: 早熟

realistic condition: 实际条件

pretty much: 几乎

nonexistent: adj. 不存在的

ophthalmologist: n. 眼科医生

### ■ 固定搭配:

pretty much: 几乎

Franklin was free to do pretty much whatever he pleased. (富兰克林几乎可以做他想做的任何事情。)

# 🛟 长难句分析:

总的来说,这句话涉及了大鼠研究与人类研究之间的差异,以 及眼科医生对蓝光潜在影响的看法。句子结构包含了转折、解 释、条件从句等多个要素,用于详细描述相关信息和观点:

- 1. "**Elsewhere**": 这个词引导了整个话题,表示在其他地方,指的是不同的研究或情境。
- 2. "**studies on rats have shown**": 这部分提到了关于大鼠的研究结果。它包括了以下要素:
- "studies": 这是主语, 指的是研究。
- "on rats": 这是修饰短语,说明研究对象是大鼠。
- "have shown": 这是谓语部分,表示研究结果已经显示出来。
- 3. "that blue light might damage cells in the retina": 这是研究的具体发现,即蓝光可能会损害视网膜细胞。它包括了以下要素:
- "that": 这是引导宾语从句的连词。
- "blue light": 指的是蓝光, 是动词的宾语。
- "might damage": 这是谓语部分,表示蓝光可能会损害。
- "cells in the retina": 这是宾语从句的一部分,说明可能会 受到损害的是视网膜细胞。
- 4. "but once again these studies were conducted in vitro": 这是一个转折部分,指出之前提到的研究都是在体外进行的,即不在实际生物体内。它包括了以下要素:
- "but": 这是一个转折连词,用来引出与前面提到的情况相反的情况。
- "once again":这是一个短语,用来强调之前的情况已经出现过。
- "these studies": 指的是之前提到的关于大鼠的研究。
- "were conducted": 这是谓语部分,表示研究是如何进行的。
- "in vitro": 这是研究的地点,即体外,不在实际生物体内。
- 5. "which means that they don't tell us much": 这部分解释了为什么体外研究的结果不太有意义。它包括了以下要素:
- "which means that": 这是一个引导解释的短语,用来说明前一部分的原因。
- "they": 指的是之前提到的研究。

- "don't tell us much": 这是谓语部分,表示这些研究结果并没有提供太多信息。
- 6. "(rats are also nocturnal, so may not react like humans to blue light worth bearing in mind if you are concerned that excess tablet time might lead to early puberty)": 这部分是一个附加说明,关于大鼠的生活习性以及与人类的差异。它包括了以下要素:
- "(rats are also nocturnal": 这部分说明大鼠是夜行性的。
- "so may not react like humans to blue light": 这部分指出大鼠对蓝光的反应可能不同于人类。
- "worth bearing in mind": 这是一个短语,表示值得考虑。
- "if you are concerned that excess tablet time might lead to early puberty": 这是条件从句,说明了需要考虑的情况,即如果你担心过多使用平板电脑可能导致早熟。
- 7. "Human studies under realistic conditions are pretty much nonexistent": 这部分讨论了人类研究的现状,即在真实条件下几乎不存在相关研究。
- 8. "because LED use is relatively new": 这是对前一部分的解释,即人类研究不多是因为 LED 技术的使用相对较新。
- 9. "but opthalmologists don't see much cause for concern at present": 这是对人类研究的结论,即眼科医生目前并不太担心相关问题。

What about sleep? Here, there is slightly better evidence to consider. It is fairly well accepted that blue light boosts alertness and can improve cognitive function under certain circumstances – during the day when it is good to be alert. There's also some evidence that it suppresses melatonin, but this is where misunderstandings may creep in.

那睡眠呢?在这方面,有更好的证据可以考虑。人们普遍认为,蓝光能提高人的警觉性,在某些情况下能改善认知功能——在白天,人的警觉性是很好的。也有一些证据表明蓝光会抑制褪黑激素,但这也是可能产生误解的地方。

### ■ 重点词汇:

boost: v. 提高

alertness: n. 警觉性

**cognitive function**:认知功能 **circumstance**: n. 环境;情况

melatonin: n. 褪黑激素

misunderstanding: n. 误解

"Melatonin is not a 'sleep hormone', it's actually a very mild modulator of sleep," says Russell Foster, professor of circadian neuroscience at Oxford University. "And there's no evidence that using blue light filters on your computer, for instance, has any effect upon the circadian system. In one of the best studies of its type, volunteers looked at an e-reader on its highest brightness for four hours, immediately prior to bedtime. They did this on five consecutive nights, at the end of which melatonin was suppressed, but sleep was delayed by just 10 minutes." This may be statistically significant, but is biologically meaningless, says Foster. "It's not that the e-reader had no effect upon biology - it just had almost no effect on sleep."

牛津大学昼夜节律神经科学教授拉塞尔·福斯特(Russell Foster)说:"褪黑激素不是一种'睡眠激素',它实际上是一种非常温和的睡眠调节剂,没有证据表明在计算机上使用蓝光滤镜会对昼夜节律系统产生任何影响。 在同类研究中最出色的一项研究中,志愿者在就寝前用最高亮度观看电子阅读器四个小时。 他们连续看了五个晚上,最后褪黑激素被抑制了,但睡眠

只延迟了 10 分钟。"福斯特说,这可能具有统计学意义,但在生物学上毫无意义。"这并不是说电子阅读器对生物学没有影响——它只是对睡眠几乎没有影响。"

### ■ 重点词汇:

melatonin: n. 褪黑激素

sleep hormone: 睡眠激素

mild: adj. 温和的

modulator: n. 调节者

circadian neuroscience: n. 昼夜生物学

blue light filter: 蓝光滤镜 effect upon: 对...的影响

circadian system: 昼夜节律系统

e-reader: n. 电子阅读器 brightness: n. 亮度

consecutive: adj. 连续的

suppressed: adj. 被抑制的

delayed: adj. 延迟的

statistically: adv. 统计地;统计学上

significant: adj. 显著的,相当数量的;重要的

biologically: adv. 生物学上, 生物学地

### ■ 固定搭配:

immediately prior to: 紧接着

She had a meeting immediately prior to the conference. (她在会议之前立即开了一个会。)

This is crucial, because light-related sleep difficulty is where other health issues are sometimes thought to arise: a 2019 review of studies, for instance, suggests that light-related disruption to the sleep-wake cycle can cause moodiness or metabolic disruption, while one small study found links between exposure to light at night and certain cancers.

这一点至关重要,因为与光有关的睡眠困难有时被认为会引发其他健康问题:例如,2019年的一份研究综述表明,与光有关的睡眠-觉醒周期紊乱会导致情绪低落或新陈代谢紊乱,而一项小型研究发现,夜间暴露于光与某些癌症之间存在联系。

### ■ 重点词汇:

crucial: adj. 关键的; 至关重要的

sleep difficulty: 睡眠困难

issue: n. 议题,争论点 review: n. 回顾;复习

**disruption**: n. 中断; 破坏

sleep-wake cycle: 睡眠-清醒周期

moodiness: n. 情绪波动

metabolic disruption: 代谢紊乱

exposure to: 暴露于

cancer: n. 癌症

But it seems likely that light exposure in general has a much more significant effect on sleep than blue light specifically. A recent paper suggests that the effects of blue light are counteracted if you have been exposed to even relatively dim light during the day.

但就一般而言,光照对睡眠的影响可能比蓝光对睡眠的影响要 大得多。最近的一篇论文表明,如果你在白天暴露在相对较暗 的光线下,蓝光的影响就会被抵消。

# ■ 重点词汇:

light exposure: 光照暴露

significant: adj. 重要的;显著的

effect on:对...的影响

specifically: adv. 具体地

paper: n. 论文

counteracted: v. 抵消

dim: adj. 暗淡的,昏暗的;模糊的

"You might get 500 lumens from an e-reader, but even a cloudy day in the UK is going to be 10,000 lumens or more," says Foster. "So it seems as if normal light exposure by the environment is going to mitigate any subtle impacts at dusk or before bedtime."

福斯特说:"电子阅读器的亮度可能只有 500 流明,但在英国,即使是阴天,亮度也会达到 10,000 流明或更高。因此,环境中的正常光照似乎会减轻黄昏或睡前的任何微妙影响。"

### ■ 重点词汇:

lumen: n. 流明(光亮的单位)

cloudy day: 多云的一天 environment: n. 环境

mitigate: v. 缓解

subtle impact: 微妙的影响

dusk: n. 黄昏

bedtime: n. 就寝时间

#### ■ 固定搭配:

it seems as if: 似乎

It seems as if it's going to rain.(看起来好像要下雨了。)

In other words, it is unlikely you are setting yourself up for serious health problems by occasionally flipping through an e-reader or going on a streaming bender before bed. You might experience eye strain from staring at a screen for too long – or stress yourself out by checking latenight emails – but your sleep is unlikely to suffer.

换句话说,偶尔翻翻电子阅读器或在睡前狂看流媒体,不太可能给自己带来严重的健康问题。你可能会因为长时间盯着屏幕

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而眼睛疲劳,或者因为深夜查看电子邮件而感到压力,但你的睡眠不太可能受到影响。

### ■ 重点词汇:

unlikely: adj. 不太可能的

setting yourself up for: 使自己陷入

serious: adj. 严重的

occasionally: adv. 偶尔

flip through: 翻阅

streaming bender: 连续观看流媒体

eye strain: 眼部疲劳

stress yourself out: 使自己感到紧张

check: v. 检查 suffer: v. 遭受

### ■ 固定搭配:

in other words: 换句话说

He didn't want to go to the party, in other words, he wasn't interested. (他不想去参加派对,换句话说,他对此

不感兴趣。)