

English and Biology Alcohol

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Q: How much alcohol is there in a drink?

A: Some drinks are stronger than others. For this reason, scientists talk about 'standard drinks'. In the US, a standard drink contains 1.2 tablespoons (5 oz, or 147 ml) of pure alcohol (ethanol).

ONE STANDARD DRINK	=	12 oz (354 ml) beer (5% alcohol)	or	5 oz (147 ml) wine (12% alcohol)	or	1.5 oz (0.14 ml) hard liquor (40% alcohol)
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The body takes two hours to break down the alcohol in one standard drink.

B

From 'cool' to coma in six (qu)easy stages!

Dr. Jim Green from the Michigan Medical Center explains what happens when you drink alcohol:

1 YOU CAN RELAX AFTER A GLASS OR TWO BECAUSE BRAIN ACTIVITY DROPS WITH ALCOHOL.

2 YOU START TO LOSE CONTROL: THE BODY CAN'T BREAK DOWN THE ALCOHOL FAST ENOUGH AND IT GOES TO THE BRAIN.

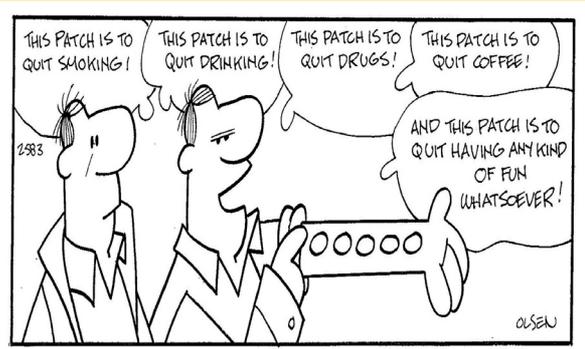
3 THE BRAIN HAS LESS CONTROL OF YOUR BODY: YOU MOVE AND THINK MORE SLOWLY. YOU CAN'T SPEAK CLEARLY. THINGS LOOK BLURRED.

4 YOU START TO FEEL QUEASY. THIS HAPPENS QUICKER ON AN EMPTY STOMACH BECAUSE THE DRUG GETS INTO YOUR BLOOD FASTER.

5 ALCOHOL IS A POISON: IF YOU CONTINUE TO DRINK, YOUR STOMACH GETS RID OF THE ALCOHOL!

6 IN THE LAST STAGE YOU FALL ASLEEP OR GO INTO A COMA. WITH VERY HIGH ALCOHOL LEVELS YOUR NERVOUS SYSTEM CAN STOP WORKING AND YOU DIE.

C



D



pure [pjʊə] – rein, queasy ['kwi:zi] – übel, stage [steɪdʒ]
 – Stadium, brain [breɪn] – Gehirn, blurred [blɜ:d] –
 verschwommen, blood [blʌd] – Blut, poison ['pɔɪzn] – Gift,
 to get rid of ['rɪd.əv] – loswerden, to label ['leɪbl] – beschriften

1 Text A

Read the information about standard drinks. How many US standard drinks (to the nearest standard drink) are in:

- two glasses of beer (0.5 l each)
- one bottle of vodka (1 l)
- one bottle of red wine (0.75 l)

2 Text B

- Read about each of the stages that the leaflet describes. → Skills 122,13
- Draw a diagram of the human body. Label the organs which are mentioned in text B. Write a short information box to say what happens to each organ when alcohol is drunk.

3 Texts C and D

Compare text C and text D.

- What kinds of 'fun', and what activities, do the texts mention?
- What is the message of each text? Write each message in one or two sentences.
- Do you agree with the messages? Say why or why not.



4 Your turn

Do ONE of these tasks:

- A display: Design a poster to inform young people about alcohol. Think of a good slogan. Present your poster to your classmates. → Skills 122,11
- A team quiz: Write ten quiz questions about alcohol and drinking. (Check that you have the answers!) Then organize a quiz with all the teams' questions. → Skills 115,3