



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

How does alcohol affect the body?

People who drink are affected even before they show signs of being drunk, especially when it comes to decision-making abilities. If drinking continues, the effects on the body, and the potential risks, multiply.

Here's what can happen:

Inhibitions and memory: You may do things that you may not remember. Reduced inhibitions lead to poor decision making.

Decision-making skills: Increased risk for having a car accident, getting into fights, or making other unwise decisions.

Coordination and physical control: Drinking leads to loss of balance, slurred speech and blurred vision.

Death: Reflexes like gagging and breathing may be suppressed, which could cause you to **vomit and choke**, or pass out and **stop breathing** completely.



Alcohol continues to affect the brain and body long after the last drink has been finished. Alcohol in the stomach and intestine continues to enter the bloodstream, impairing judgment and coordination for hours.



PREVIEW

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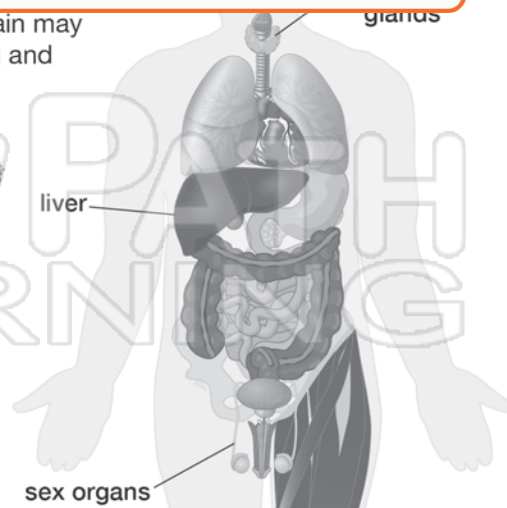


developing brain. Even subtle changes in the brain may have a significant impact on **long-term thinking** and **memory skills**.

Liver – Elevated liver enzymes, indicating some degree of **liver damage**, have been found in some adolescents who drink alcohol.



Growth & Endocrine System – Drinking alcohol during **puberty**, a period of rapid growth and development, may upset the critical **hormonal balance** necessary for **normal development** of organs, muscles & bones.





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Inhibitions & memory: _____

Decision-making skills: _____

Coordination & physical control: _____

Death: _____



Alcohol & Teens

PREVIEW

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Brain: _____

Liver: _____

Growth & Endocrine System: _____

