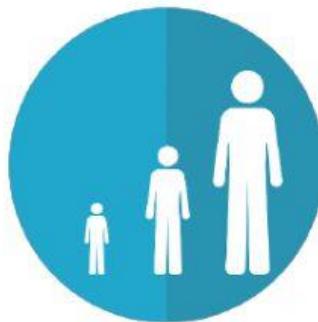


Read the text about becoming an adult around the world. Think of ONE word that fits into each blank.



Becoming an adult is a very important phase in every person's (1) \_\_\_\_\_. However, when this happens can be very different depending (2) \_\_\_\_\_ where you live or which culture you (3) \_\_\_\_\_ from. Most countries have laws on when adolescents are allowed to do certain things.

In the US, for example, adulthood starts at the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of 16, when a person can get employment or a driving licence. Even (5) \_\_\_\_\_ American youngsters have the right to vote at 18, they can't legally drink alcohol (6) \_\_\_\_\_ they reach the age of 21.

In some countries of Central and South America, girls celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> (7) \_\_\_\_\_, which marks their rise to womanhood. Families often (8) \_\_\_\_\_ church services with their 15-year old daughters and afterwards have parties with many guests.

In Japan young men and women transfer to adulthood at 20, when they are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to vote and drink alcohol. The Japanese even have a special day for this event (10) \_\_\_\_\_ "Coming-of-Age Day", the second Monday of January. On this day, the new adults celebrate (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their families and attend speeches given by politicians.

Until recently young people in Saudi Arabia (12) \_\_\_\_\_ considered adults at the age of 15 - a time when they started showing physical signs (13) \_\_\_\_\_ becoming an adult. However, a (14) \_\_\_\_\_ years ago the country raised this age to 18.