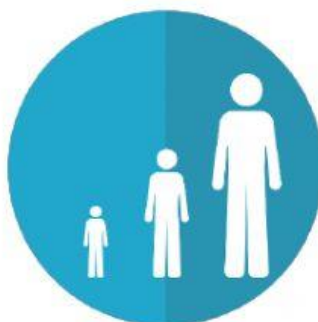


Read the text about becoming an adult around the world. Think of ONE word that fits into each blank.



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 15th **(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.