

## WHY DO TEENAGERS DRINK ALCOHOL?

Teenagers consume alcohol for a number of reasons, and there is not just one dimension to this situation. Since teenagers are at an age when they want to experiment with everything, the curiosity to consume alcohol sometimes leads them to alcohol addiction. Teenagers can sometimes go through rough patches which can be due to relationship problems or something to do with their parents, and in the end, they are unable to cope with these issues and tend to get depressed.

Such conditions encourage teens to consume alcohol. As teenagers often witness their parents fighting and verbally abusing each other, this also affects their mental state. In fact, one of the main things which leads teenagers to drink is their parents getting divorced, and whenever such a thing happens, teenagers can be known to seek solace in alcohol and drugs. It is important to keep the home environment positive for teens as many of them are highly sensitive and take things very personally.

You cannot blame the teenagers for their addiction. Rather it is the situation that encourages them to turn to alcohol. Also, another reason to drink alcohol is that teenagers want to impress their friends. They want to be cool in front of them, and they believe that drinking alcohol is a way of being adult-like and trendy.

Definitions:

- a) intense desire to know
- b) a physical or mental dependence

Find synonyms:

- c) animate
- d) mistreating
- e) accuse

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## ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY IN GREAT BRITAIN

Applications to higher education courses in the United Kingdom are managed by the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Students submit a single application via UCAS's website with a list of up to five courses for which they are applying, in the order of preference. There are three application deadlines for different courses: October of the previous year, and January and March of the year when the applicant wishes to start university.

Once this application is processed, the universities and colleges will consider it: each has their own criteria and their own ways of working, so students can expect to hear from them at different times. Some courses require particular qualifications, others require an admissions test. Universities and colleges might send an invitation, which asks the applicant to attend an interview or audition, or to provide a portfolio of work, an essay or other piece of work.

After the student has attended the interview or sent the piece of work, the university or college may make a conditional offer –in case he or she is still in high school: this means that certain conditions, usually good marks in final exams, must be met. Universities and colleges might have other additional requirements, like financial or medical conditions.

Find words in the text with the following meanings:

- a) dates before which something must be done
- b) concerning money

Find synonyms for:

- c) preceding
- d) evaluate
- e) composition