

# NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

## Heavy drinking damaging UK health service

**MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:**  
[http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

### IN THIS LESSON:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Multiple Choice	5
Spelling	6
Put the Text Back Together	7
Scrambled Sentences	8
Discussion	9
Writing	10
Homework	11

**ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.**

**2nd January, 2010**

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

A new report from Britain describes how heavy drinking is damaging its health service. More and more British people are drinking too much. This means higher numbers of patients are needing hospital treatment. The number of illnesses caused by alcohol has doubled in the past five years. Healthcare managers say the system cannot cope. They say Britain's culture of heavy drinking must change, or Britain's hospitals will be in trouble. One expert suggested making hospital patients pay \$800 for alcohol-related problems. Britain's health system is currently free.

One solution to the problem is to increase the price of alcohol. A committee recommended a minimum price of 50p (around 80 cents) for a single unit of alcohol. This could save around 3,000 lives a year and save billions of dollars for the health service. Young people who drink too much never think about the harm they are doing to their health. They also do not think about the cost to their health service. In Britain, many crimes, accidental deaths and suicides are because of alcohol. In 2008, 15,000 people died from alcohol abuse.

# PHRASE MATCH

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

**Match the following phrases from the article.**

## Paragraph 1

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. A new report        | a. by alcohol   |
| 2. people are drinking | b. treatment    |
| 3. hospital            | c. cope         |
| 4. illnesses caused    | d. from Britain |
| 5. the system cannot   | e. problems     |
| 6. alcohol-related     | f. too much     |

## Paragraph 2

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. One solution to       | a. too much     |
| 2. a minimum             | b. lives a year |
| 3. save around 3,000     | c. suicides     |
| 4. people who drink      | d. the problem  |
| 5. accidental deaths and | e. abuse        |
| 6. alcohol               | f. price of 50p |

# LISTENING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

A new report from Britain \_\_\_\_\_ drinking is damaging its health service. More and more British people are drinking too much. This \_\_\_\_\_ of patients are needing hospital treatment. The number of illnesses caused by alcohol \_\_\_\_\_ past five years. Healthcare managers say the system cannot cope. They say Britain's culture of heavy drinking must change, or Britain's hospitals will be in trouble. \_\_\_\_\_ making hospital \_\_\_\_\_ for alcohol-related problems. Britain's health system \_\_\_\_\_.

One solution to the problem \_\_\_\_\_ price of alcohol. A committee recommended a minimum price of 50p (around 80 cents) \_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol. This could save around 3,000 lives a year and save billions of dollars for the health service. Young \_\_\_\_\_ much never think \_\_\_\_\_ are doing to their health. They also do not \_\_\_\_\_ to their health service. In Britain, many crimes, accidental deaths and suicides are because of alcohol. In 2008, 15,000 people died \_\_\_\_\_.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

A new report from Britain (1) \_\_\_\_\_ how heavy drinking is damaging its health service. More and more British people are drinking too much. This means higher (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of patients are needing hospital treatment. The number of illnesses caused by alcohol has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in the past five years. Healthcare managers say the system cannot cope. They say Britain's culture of heavy drinking must change, or Britain's hospitals will be (4) \_\_\_\_\_ trouble. One expert suggested making hospital patients pay \$800 for alcohol-related problems. Britain's health system is currently (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

One solution to the problem is to increase the price (6) \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol. A committee recommended a minimum price of 50p (around 80 cents) for a single unit of alcohol. This could (7) \_\_\_\_\_ around 3,000 lives a year and save billions of dollars for the health service. Young people who drink too much never think about the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ they are doing to their health. They also do not think about the cost to their health service. In Britain, many crimes, accidental (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and suicides are because of alcohol. In 2008, 15,000 people died (10) \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol abuse.

## Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- |     |                 |               |               |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) description | (b) describe  | (c) describes |
| 2.  | (a) numbers     | (b) numerical | (c) number    |
| 3.  | (a) double      | (b) doubles   | (c) doubled   |
| 4.  | (a) on          | (b) in        | (c) of        |
| 5.  | (a) free        | (b) freedom   | (c) freely    |
| 6.  | (a) by          | (b) of        | (c) at        |
| 7.  | (a) save        | (b) savings   | (c) saved     |
| 8.  | (a) harms       | (b) harm      | (c) harmful   |
| 9.  | (a) deadly      | (b) dies      | (c) deaths    |
| 10. | (a) to          | (b) from      | (c) at        |

# SPELLING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

**Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.**

## Paragraph 1

1. A new orterp
2. higher numbers of niatspte
3. hospital maertttne
4. Britain's ulruect of heavy drinking
5. hospitals will be in blreuot
6. alcohol-related roemspbl

## Paragraph 2

7. One oilsnotu
8. a miunimm price
9. isbnolli of dollars
10. Young eeplpo who drink too much
11. accidental taehds
12. died from alcohol aebus

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

## Number these lines in the correct order.

- ( ) One solution to the problem is to increase the price of alcohol. A committee recommended a minimum price of
- ( ) suggested making hospital patients pay \$800 for alcohol-related problems. Britain's health system is currently free.
- ( ) dollars for the health service. Young people who drink too much never think about the harm they are doing to their
- ( **1** ) A new report from Britain describes how heavy drinking is damaging its health service. More and more British
- ( ) health. They also do not think about the cost to their health service. In Britain, many crimes, accidental deaths
- ( ) people are drinking too much. This means higher numbers of patients are needing hospital treatment. The number of
- ( ) and suicides are because of alcohol. In 2008, 15,000 people died from alcohol abuse.
- ( ) 50p (around 80 cents) for a single unit of alcohol. This could save around 3,000 lives a year and save billions of
- ( ) They say Britain's culture of heavy drinking must change, or Britain's hospitals will be in trouble. One expert
- ( ) illnesses caused by alcohol has doubled in the past five years. Healthcare managers say the system cannot cope.

# THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

**With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.**

1. are people British More much too drinking.

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2. number The alcohol by caused illnesses of.

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3. heavy of culture Britain's change must drinking.

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4. making suggested expert One pay patients hospital.

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5. health is free Britain's system currently.

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6. solution One problem the to.

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7. lives a year This could save around 3,000.

---

8. health of service dollars for Save the billions.

---

9. about also the do cost not think They.

---

10. died 15,000 from alcohol abuse people.

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

### **STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From: [http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy\\_drinking.html](http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1001/100102-heavy_drinking.html)

**Write about alcohol for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.**

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about alcohol. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about alcohol. Include imaginary interviews with people who love it and hate it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to the leader of your country. Ask him/her three questions about alcohol. Give him/her three of your opinions on new laws to pass about alcohol. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.