

Name: _____

DRAW THE LINE

It's not always easy to know what constitutes acceptable drinking and what doesn't. For adults 21 and over, moderate amounts of alcohol can be consumed safely—but drinking can also be a major problem for people of all ages.

Read the following scenarios. Using the boxes on the right, rank the scenarios from most to least acceptable. Let 1 = the *least* acceptable situation and 8 = the *most* acceptable. Briefly explain your reasons for each choice. There are no right or wrong answers—your reasons are more important than the order you choose.

1. Greg, 35, works hard all day. On his way home from work, he usually stops at a local bar for a few beers with friends before heading home.

Explain your answer: _____

2. Beth, 42, always drinks one glass of wine with dinner.

Explain your answer: _____

3. Consuelo, 39, has a very stressful job and sometimes has to work long hours. Each night, he has to have a martini or two before he feels relaxed enough to chat with his wife or play with his kids.

Explain your answer: _____

4. Emily, 24, lives and works at a great job in the city. She goes out partying every weekend, usually having five or six drinks at a time. Though she stays out late on Fridays and Saturdays and sometimes feels hung-over, she never stays home from work or misses her deadlines.

Explain your answer: _____

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5. Chris, 17, sometimes pours himself a drink from the liquor cabinet when his parents aren't home. He only drinks enough to feel "buzzed," not drunk.

Explain your answer: _____

6. Vivien, 52, has a sip of wine each week as part of a religious ceremony.

Explain your answer: _____

7. Owen, 45, drinks every day. He doesn't feel normal without alcohol several times a day, and he often drinks in secret so his family won't bother him about it. He is able to function while he's drinking and goes to work regularly.

Explain your answer: _____

8. Rebecca, 16, only drinks at parties on special occasions—birthday parties, school dances, holidays—once every few months or so. When she drinks, she gets really drunk and sometimes blacks out or gets sick.

Explain your answer: _____

When you are done ranking the scenarios from 1 to 8, discuss your choices with the class. What were your reasons for each ranking? How similar or different were your classmates' rankings? What criteria did your classmates use in their rankings? Did most people agree on the most acceptable and least acceptable scenarios? Did your classmates come up with reasons you hadn't considered before?