

Practice Exercise 17

The chemical in wine, beer, and hard liquor that affects the central nervous system is ethyl alcohol. It is a natural substance derived from the fermentation of yeast and sugar. Insofar as it contains calories, ethyl alcohol is technically a food, but it contains no nutrients, only calories. Since it affects the central nervous system, ethyl alcohol is also a drug. Its presence in alcoholic beverages is measured as "proof," ranging from a low of eight proof (4%) in most beers to more than 100 proof (more than 50%) in hard liquors. The higher the proof, the higher the calories and the greater the effect on the central nervous system.

1. Which phrase best summarizes the topic?
 - a. the central nervous system
 - b. proof
 - c. alcoholic beverages
 - d. ethyl alcohol
2. The paragraph states that alcohol
 - a. can be a nutritious food.
 - b. is both a food and a drug.
 - c. is useful in medicine.
 - d. makes people overweight.
3. The paragraph is organized as
 - a. a broad statement followed by support.
 - b. reasons leading to a conclusion.
 - c. introduction, main idea, and supporting sentences.
 - d. a list of equally important statements.
4. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. Alcohol is a chemical found in wine, beer, and liquor.
 - b. Alcohol is a food that acts like a drug.
 - c. Alcohol abuse is a serious problem.
 - d. Nutrients are the missing ingredient in alcohol.