

BE
FREE
TO
DRIVE
INDEPENDENT

You have **a new found freedom...**
protect it, have fun with it
and don't mess it up.

Going to the mall, hanging out with friends, getting a job... these are the upsides of getting your driver's license. But this freedom also comes with some pretty major responsibilities, decisions and situations that might be new to you. If you are in a situation where friends or classmates are drinking, here's what you can do:

- Do not drink alcohol. You don't want to gain weight, get zits, or zone out on the big test. Say "no" however you want to. But saying no may be the best decision you make. Besides, it's illegal for you to drink.
- Don't get in the car with anyone who has been drinking. Even a little bit

think.

You are
stronger
than you

of alcohol
can impair
someone and
lead to dangerous
mistakes.

- Take a cell phone or some change so you can call a trusted adult to get you home safely.

If you really want to be independent and think for yourself, what is more "alternative:" drinking alcohol because everyone else does or choosing not to drink? There is a radical theory out there that says you don't have to drink to have a good time.

- If you think about drinking because you are bored, then you aren't really trying that hard to find something else to do.
- If you think about drinking to escape your problems, the problem will still be there and you might create other problems like saying or doing something you might regret.
- If you think drinking will make it easier to meet people, people aren't meeting the real you anyway, so what's the point?

Underage drinking is more likely to kill more young people than all illegal drugs combined. And you shouldn't be surprised when we tell you that alcohol is a factor in the three leading causes of death for teens: homicides, suicides and unintentional deaths like car crashes, alcohol poisoning and drowning. Just think about your friends and your school – how many bad things have happened as a result of alcohol?

MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education®

**Be yourself – sober.
Be yourself – independent.
Be your best self.**

The keys to your car can be the keys to the rest of your life. Don't drink.

To learn more, visit www.madd.org

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