

al·co·hol W3

/ˈælkəhɒl \$ -hɒ:l/

noun

- 1 [uncountable] DRUNK drinks such as beer or wine that contain a substance which can make you drunk:

I don't drink alcohol anymore.

alcohol abuse (= when someone drinks too much)

people with alcohol problems (= people who drink too much)

- 2 [uncountable and countable] the chemical substance in alcoholic drinks that can make you drunk, which is also used in other types of products:

low alcohol drinks

THESAURUS

alcohol drinks that contain alcohol – used especially in rules and warnings about alcoholic drinks: *We're not allowed to serve alcohol to people under 18.* | *low-alcohol wines* (= not containing a lot of alcohol) | *He doesn't drink alcohol or smoke.*

drink (*BrE*) alcoholic drinks. **Drink** is more informal than **alcohol**: *Police officers smelled drink and breath-tested him.* | *He blamed drink for the violence.*

liquor (*AmE*) drinks that contain alcohol, especially strong alcoholic drinks: *The man was holding a bottle of liquor in one hand and a cigarette in the other.* | *a liquor store* | *He got used to drinking hard liquor* (= strong alcoholic drinks) *at an early age.*

booze (*informal*) alcoholic drinks: *The doctor told Jimmy to stay off the booze for a while.* | *He tried to buy booze with a stolen credit card.*

spirits (*especially BrE*) strong alcoholic drinks such as whisky or brandy: *We serve a wide range of wines, beers, and spirits.*

the hard stuff (spoken informal) strong alcoholic drinks: *He enjoyed a drop of the hard stuff* (= he liked strong alcoholic drinks) .

alcopops (BrE) sweet fizzy drinks with alcohol in them: *The report showed that alcopops were the most popular drink for 17-year-olds.*

Word origin

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Medieval Latin

Origin: 'fine powder, liquid made by a purifying process', from Old Spanish, from Arabic *al-kuhul* 'the powdered antimony (= a type of metal)'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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