**It's True: Alcohol Helps You Speak a Foreign Language Better**

<http://time.com/4989850/alcohol-foreign-language-speak/>

* What did the researchers study?
  + The researchers studied whether or not alcohol would make you more fluent in a non-native language.
* Are there any methodological issues?
  + Did they use of a control group? Provide operational definitions? Control for extraneous variables? Confuse correlation with causation? etc...
  + The control group drank water.
  + The participants knew what they were drinking, so they could not control for the biological vs. psychological effects of alcohol.
  + This was only done for German-speakers speaking Dutch, so future studies would need to expand the languages.
  + Future studies of this would include an alcohol placebo, rather than water.
* Does the article explain how the variables of interest are measured?
  + Variables were measured by ratings of native Dutch speakers.
  + Variables included grammar, vocabulary and argumentation.
* Does the article mention the number of participants? Who the participants were?
  + 50 native German-speaking participants who attended Maastricht University in the Netherlands. All participants drank alcohol at least sometimes, and all had taken an exam demonstrating proficiency in the language (Dutch).
* Overall, do you think it is a good summary of a research finding?
  + Yes, they mentioned almost everything that was important for the research, and explained it in layman’s terms, so the everyday person could understand the findings.
* Does this make you think twice about interpreting research you find readily available in the general media?
  + This particular one does not, however, there are some weird research articles out there, explaining studies done in a very poor manner, and those are the ones that make me think twice about the general media.