

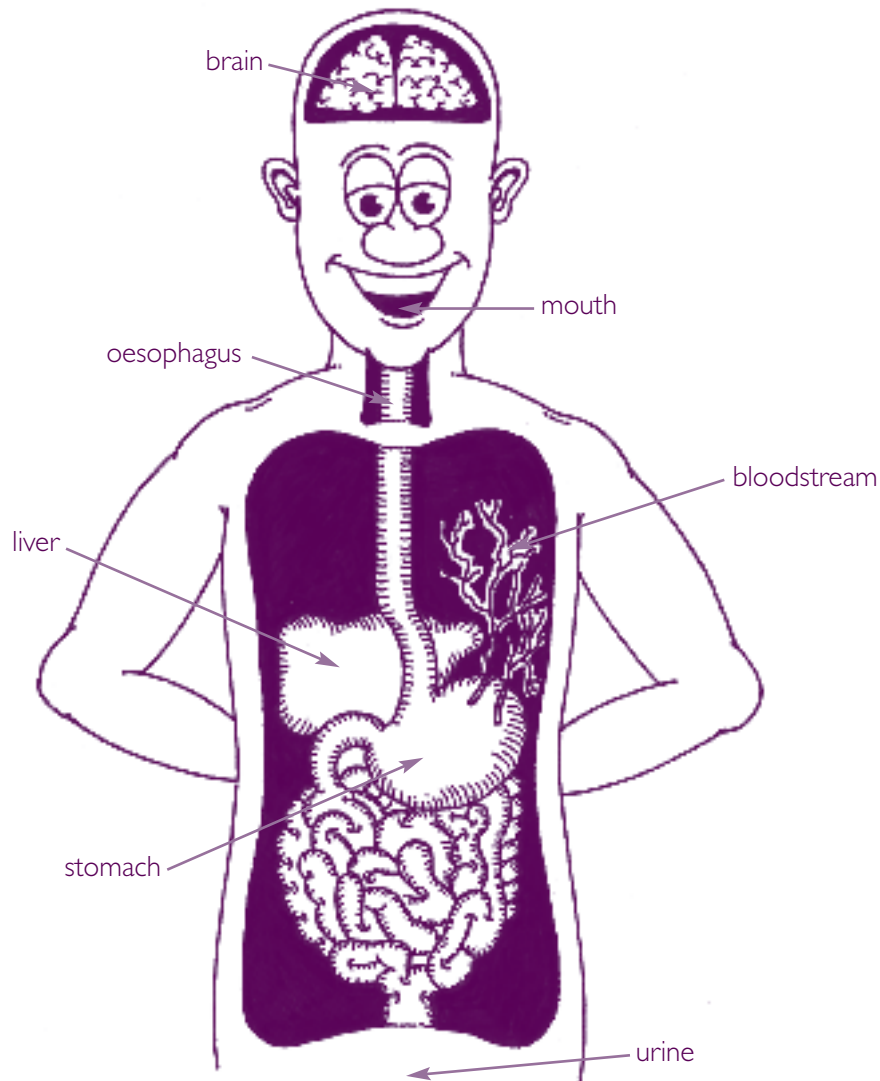
Skills for the  
Primary School Child  
Part 5

# The World of Alcohol



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- Alcohol can be considered as a food, as a drug and as a poison. It can be used by one's body to provide energy. Alcohol is extremely soluble in water. When it is drunk it does not need digesting and will go directly into the bloodstream, with some immediate effects.
- Alcohol is drunk, passes down the oesophagus or food pipe, and into the stomach. It passes into the bloodstream and is carried around the body, quickly reaching the brain. Once there, it begins to affect the way in which the brain works.
- Alcohol is a depressant drug. It depresses, or slows down, the brain.
- Almost all the alcohol taken into the body is broken down by the liver, the largest organ in the body. Only between 5 per cent and 10 per cent is excreted as urine through the kidneys, or as sweat through the skin, or in the breath by the lungs.