Before you begin, we suggest you download our Alcohol and you leaflet for teenagers or order hard copies via kate@alcoholeducationtrust.org

Emily

Emily, now 17, was so drunk after leaving a bar that she agreed to the offer of help to find a taxi from a guy she barely knew, with devastating consequences. Everyone tells you about the good times, she says, but “...you never actually hear how ill they were the next day. No one ever discusses the worse stuff.”

Divide the film into segments and freeze before any negative consequences have happened. Set the scene. Emily has had a bad week and arranges to meet her friends, some of whom are 18 and they start drinking in the park...she wants to ‘drown her sorrows’ and thought alcohol would help her feel better.

Divide the class into + and - groups. The + group develop positive outcomes to the scenario, the – group imagines what happens next that is negative.

Decide when you want to pause the film and give the pupils the opportunity to present their ongoing outcomes at this point. Alternatively, you can watch the films the whole way through and then the pupils develop their own positive or negative outcomes.

For example: If you’ve got an engaged group of students, we suggest you let them come up with their own outcomes, if you need prompts, then you can consider the below:

Negative group scenarios and how to turn the situation around:

They are all pretty much in the film! Use as triggers:

- Alcohol and its effects (volume, pacing, alcoholic strength, eating before drinking – see the Alcohol and you leaflet).
- Drinking for the wrong reasons – alcohol acts as a depressant as you drink more.
- Asking those over the age of 18 to buy alcohol on your behalf (you risk them facing criminal charges or a fine see alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/the-law/).
- Looking after your friends (never go home with a stranger or on your own).
- Planning how you get home before you go out (charged mobile, money for taxi, parents to pick you up or public transport).

Positive group scenarios:

Knowing that it’s against the law to drink in a public space if you’re under 18 and that the police can confiscate your alcohol, therefore you don’t drink.

- Emily bought some sandwiches and snacks for everyone to share and they sat around in the sun and chatted.
- Once they’d finished at the park, she realised she hadn’t had anything to eat and invited one of her mates home to watch a DVD and have supper.
- Once she was at the club she switched to soft drinks as she knew she could get her mates into trouble if she was caught under age drinking. She also wants to stay healthy and take care of herself so she decided to have a ‘mocktail’ followed by a slimline tonic and no-one knew any different.
- When she was being sick her best friend called her parents and they both got a lift home. Although she felt awful the next day.

Once the clip has been viewed, questions to raise:

Have any laws been broken? (See ‘Alcohol and the law’ sheets pages 58-59 or alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/the-law/)
- Drinking in a public place
- Buying by proxy
- Drinking alcohol in a licensed premises when under age
- Emily could have brought charges of sexual assault
- Discussion around consent

What would you have done differently?