Teacher's Key

Drinking Games and Toasting Customs Around the World (Level B2)

Vocabulary Matching

1 rituals = **N**
2 underlying = **A**
3 leveling = **H**
4 seniority = **L**
5 toastmaster = **G**
6 synchrony = **M**
7 generosity = **I**
8 etiquette = **E**
9 attentively = **D**
10 distinct = **O**
11 resembles = **J**
12 belonging = **K**
13 implicit = **B**
14 coercion = **C**
15 deliberately = **F**

Fill in the Blank

1 rituals
2 underlying
3 leveling
4 seniority
5 toastmaster
6 synchrony
7 generosity
8 etiquette
9 attentively
10 distinct
11 resembles
12 implicit
13 coercion
14 deliberately
15 belonging

True or False

1 **True.** Their specific rules differ, but the social work is similar.
2 **True.** The game appears alongside nunchi games in Korea.
3 **False.** Everyone must wait for the tamada's toast first.
4 **True.** The chant is một, hai, ba, dô.
5 **False.** It is widely understood as generosity.
6 **False.** It is considered impolite to fill your own glass.
7 **True.** The reading calls this a distinct custom, specific to Miyako Island.
8 **True.** Two teams try to knock the bottle over with a ball.
9 **False.** It says the line is not always obvious.
10 **False.** It says the customs are not really about the alcohol itself.

Language Focus: Comparing and Contrasting Across Examples

Example answer: In one country, guests fill each other's glasses; **by contrast**, in another country, each guest fills their own.

Comprehension Questions: Model Answers

1 They act as social rituals, repeated and rule-based, that help a group move from formality to informality, even though the specific rules differ enormously by country.

2 In Korea, luck in a counting game briefly sets seniority aside; in Georgia, a toastmaster's structured toasts, including an alaverdi invitation, pull a guest fully into the group instead.

3 In Vietnam, friends count together and drink at exactly the same instant, creating synchrony; in China, encouraging a guest to drink more at a baijiu banquet is understood as generosity rather than pressure.

4 Mainland etiquette treats filling your own glass as impolite, so guests pour for each other; in otōri, the oya fills and drains their own glass after a speech, then pours for everyone else and chooses the next leader. Both are about pouring for others, but otōri is a ceremony, so they are related but distinct.

5 Two teams try to knock over a bottle with a thrown ball and may drink only until the other team resets it and shouts stop; it is more physical and game-like than the etiquette-based customs.

6 The same rules that create belonging can create implicit pressure, and the line between encouragement and coercion is not always clear. Some groups have changed the ritual: younger Koreans increasingly treat penalty drinks as optional, one university department held an alcohol-free retreat, and Gallup found in 2026 that only half of Americans aged 18 to 34 drink.

7 Because each custom answers the same human question, how a group turns strangers or unequal ranks into equals, in a locally specific way, so the deeper interest is social, not chemical. The writer even suggests testing whether a ritual still includes someone who does not drink.

8 Open answer. Example: the Georgian supra reveals a culture that values structured respect and hospitality; Flunkyball reveals a culture that treats drinking as playful team competition.

9 Open answer. The named games and customs (Baskin Robbins 31, the tamada, một hai ba dô, otōri, Flunkyball) are concrete; the closing claim about status and trust is more general and harder to verify.

10 False. The reading describes several different customs across different countries, not one shared game.

11 No. The writer says it is widely understood as generosity in China but that a foreign guest may experience it differently, and paragraph 6 adds that the line between encouragement and coercion is not always obvious.

12 To show that the same underlying social pattern, leveling, belonging, transition, appears in very different specific forms, which supports the reading's main claim more convincingly than one example could.

Notes on the Evidence

- Sources checked (September 2026). Korean games: general party-game guides (Baskin Robbins 31 rules) and drinking-game roundups for nunchi games. Georgia: Georgia.travel and Wikipedia (Tamada, Alaverdi, Supra pages; the tamada leads the toasts; alaverdi passes the floor to a guest; bolomde means to the end or bottom). Vietnam: informal sources on the toast mot, hai, ba, do. China: AP report on baijiu and a University of Michigan museum blog (encouraging a guest to drink framed as generosity). Japan: Wikipedia, Otōri page, read 27 September 2026 (the oya gives a speech, fills and drains their own glass, pours for everyone in the circle, then chooses the next oya). Germany: Wikipedia, Flunkyball page, read 27 September 2026 (the throwing team drinks when the target falls; the other team shouts stop once the target is reset and the ball is back behind its line; the first team to finish its drinks wins). Korea Herald, Politeness without pressure, 16 August 2025 (penalty drinks treated as optional; Yongin University dance department held an alcohol-free MT, or membership training retreat, in May 2025; anecdotal, no survey data). Gallup, Americans' Drinking Remains at Record Low, 20 August 2026 (54 percent of US adults drink, a record low for a second year; 50 percent of adults aged 18 to 34, down from 58 percent in 2023).
- Evidence limits. Korean game names and rules come from general-audience sources, not academic ones. The Japanese self-pouring rule is a widely repeated generalization and is hedged as traditional; practice varies by setting and generation. The Chinese generosity framing is presented as a common understanding that a foreign guest may not share. Flunkyball's exact origin is disputed, so the reading gives no date. The Korea Herald evidence is anecdotal; the Gallup figures are US only and are dated in the reading. The reading does not treat alcohol policy, religious abstinence, or health harms in detail. Vocabulary: loanwords (nunchi, tamada, alaverdi, bolomde, gānbēi, baijiu, otōri, oya) are explained inline and are not vocabulary items. The Hindi and Arabic translations have not been checked by a native speaker.
- Revision (September 2026, fix mode). Paragraph 5: the otōri description was corrected (the oya fills and drains their own glass before pouring for others, then passes the role on), and the sentence saying the custom was related yet barely resembled mainland etiquette, a contradiction, was rewritten; the Japanese rule is now hedged as traditional; Flunkyball now says the throwing team drinks. Paragraph 6: the unsourced claims about many universities and a sober-curious movement were replaced with a dated Korea Herald report and 2026 Gallup figures. Paragraph 7 now ends on a concrete test instead of a summary. The Yes/No/Not Given item, previously answered Not Given, now asks about a view the writer states (answer: No). Discussion question 13 duplicated question 1 and was replaced; questions 8, 10, and 14 were updated to match the new text. Four correct reading-comprehension options were shortened so the correct answer is not usually the longest. Belonging now precedes implicit in the vocabulary list, matching the reading. Translations fixed: Hindi leveling and implicit, Arabic leveling and underlying, Chinese implicit, Russian distinct and belonging. The unverified BBC Future link and the Alaverdi page were replaced with the Korea Herald and Gallup pages.