








Definition of a Standard Drink

A standard drink is any drink that contains about 14 grams of pure alcohol (about 0.6 fluid ounces or 1.2 tablespoons). Below are standard drink equivalents. These are approximate, as different brands and types of beverages vary in their actual alcohol content.

beer or cooler	malt liquor <small>8.5 oz. shown in a 12-oz. glass that, if full, would hold about 1.5 standard drinks of malt liquor</small>	table wine	fortified wine <small>(such as sherry or port) 3.5 oz. shown</small>	cordial, liqueur, or aperitif <small>2.5 oz. shown</small>	brandy <small>(a single shot)</small>	spirits <small>(a single shot of 80-proof gin, vodka, whiskey, etc.) Shown straight and in a highball glass with ice to show level before adding mixer*</small>
						
~5% alcohol	~7% alcohol	~12% alcohol	~17% alcohol	~24% alcohol	~40% alcohol	~40% alcohol
12 oz.	8.5 oz.	5 oz.	3.5 oz.	2.5 oz.	1.5 oz.	1.5 oz.

Many people do not know what counts as a standard drink, and thus are unaware of how many standard drinks are held in the containers in which these drinks are often sold. Some examples:

- For **beer**, the approximate number of standard drinks in
 - 12 oz. = 1
 - 22 oz. = 2
 - 16 oz. = 1.3
 - 40 oz. = 3.3
- For **malt liquor**, the approximate number of standard drinks in
 - 12 oz. = 1.5
 - 22 oz. = 2.5
 - 16 oz. = 2
 - 40 oz. = 4.5
- For **table wine**, the approximate number of standard drinks in
 - a standard 750 mL (25 oz.) bottle = 5
- For **80-proof spirits**, or “hard liquor,” the approximate number of standard drinks in
 - a mixed drink = 1 or more*
 - a fifth (25 oz.) = 17
 - a pint (16 oz.) = 11
 - 1.75 L (59 oz.) = 39

**Note:* It can be difficult to estimate the number of standard drinks served in a single mixed drink made with hard liquor. Depending on factors such as the type of spirits and the recipe, one mixed drink can contain from one to three or more standard drinks.