The brain is your body's control center! Learn about what each part does, and how alcohol affects its function.

**Cerebral Cortex**
Helps you make smart decisions and assess risks.

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
inhibiting your ability to think clearly and make decisions.

**Hypothalamus**
Works with the pituitary gland to release hormones. Keeps the body's organs and important bodily functions in a state of harmony.

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
mixing up hormones. Blood pressure, hunger, thirst, and the urge to urinate increase while body temperature and heart rate decrease.

**Medulla**
Keeps the body alive, controlling crucial involuntary actions such as breathing, swallowing, and heart rate.

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
slowing down or stopping functioning altogether — which could impede breathing, eating, or pumping blood to the body.

**Central Nervous System**
Carries messages along the spinal cord, between your brain and every part of your body.

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
slowing the flow of information from the brain to other parts of the body. This can result in slowed reaction time.

**Hippocampus**
Regulates emotions, memory, and natural human drives (such as hunger).

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
making it difficult to learn new information and store memories. Large chunks of time could become blurry.

**Cerebellum**
Controls physical and verbal coordination.

**Alcohol Interferes by ▼**
affecting your body's coordination — you might lose your balance, fall, or slur your words.