Culture Assimilator
¿Beber o no beber?

Read through the following “critical incident” and select what you think is the most appropriate response. Check your selection on the page indicated. If it is not the best response, choose others until you find the most correct one.

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Incident:
You are visiting some friends in Paraguay, and a group of you go to a karaoke bar for “el almuerzo” to meet some other friends there. The waiter asks you first what you’d like to order. A little wary of the water at this establishment, you order a coca-cola with your meal. It comes in a big bottle with a glass to drink it out of. After you pour your drink, you take a sip, and as soon as you set the glass down, Carlos reaches across your plate and takes the coke. He takes a big swig, then passes your drink around the table. By the time the drink is returned to you, there is barely any left in the glass. It appears that out of 6 people, only you and Juan have even ordered drinks. What do you do?

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1) You refill the glass from your bottle, little by little, only when you want a drink. By drinking quickly, you can finish the bottle yourself. (go to page 2)
2) You order four more drinks, so everyone has their own. After all, food is cheap here, and you are expected to play the rich “estadounidense”, right? Don’t forget to ask for a clean glass. (go to page 3)
3) You continue to refill the glass, letting everyone keep sipping from it, and ordering a refill when you run out. (go to page 4)
4) You keep refilling and sharing the glass, but don’t drink from it anymore. Who knows where their lips have been? (go to page 5)

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Retorts

You selected option # 1: It is rude to appear as though you have taken offense at sharing your drink, and unwilling to share with your hosts here in Paraguay. Try again!

You selected option # 2: It is nice to order everyone drinks, but that can be expensive, and you aren’t obligated to do so. Worse, depending on how you order the drinks, you may be indicating that you don’t like others touching your glass. Try again!

You selected option # 3: Congratulations! You Picked the right option. Sharing drinks is not only normal in many Latin American countries, but expected among friends at a karaoke. Someone else will order a drink next time.

You selected option # 4: Sorry! You really don’t want to give the impression that you won’t share your glass with them or they might think you believe they are dirty. Try again!