

### **Ecstasy: death at a low price**

Ecstasy is the new disco killer. It began to be used in American Colleges at the end of the '80s and since then it has spread all over the world. This synthetic drug that looks like a common tablet, has stimulant and hallucinogenic properties.

An Ecstasy user does not feel tired or sleepy, even if his reflexes are very low. The effect of ecstasy is long-lasting: it can last up to six hours. If we add its effect to other stimulant agents, such as alcohol and loud music we have a cocktail which becomes lethal when the user drives a car.

Ecstasy, together with other drugs, is also associated with "rave parties". Rave parties began in England in the late '80s and became popular in the US and South Africa as pop culture phenomenon. They are often organized in clubs or abandoned warehouses. Sometimes young people who take part in a rave party travel thousands of miles. They go there because they feel free to wear, dance, listen to music and do whatever they want. Unfortunately this false freedom is often paid for with death.

### **Activity**

**Answer the following questions according to the text:**

1. What kind of drug is ecstasy?
2. How does ecstasy user feel?
3. What is ecstasy associated with?
4. Where are rave parties often held?
5. What do young people think to find at a rave party?
6. What can they find instead?
7. Have you already heard about rave parties?
8. What would you say to a friend who invited you to a rave party?

### **MARIJUANA- the silent killer**

The most widely used illegal drug in the United States and most parts of the world is Marijuana. It is made from the shredded leaves, stems<sup>1</sup>, seeds, and flowers of the hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) plant. It looks like green, brown, or gray dried parsley. Some of its common names are : weed, grass, pot, chronic, joint, blunt, herb, cannabis, hashish, Mary Jane etc. Many young people consider marijuana as a harmless substance and think it can be a better

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<sup>1</sup> Gambo

substitute to other forms of smoking. Youth marijuana use is risky and can lead to serious consequences of mental health along with other dangerous health hazards.

Marijuana makes it *hard to keep track of time*<sup>2</sup> and concentrate. People who use it have difficulty with memory and find it hard to solve problems and learn. Marijuana increases your heart rate and blood pressure. Some people get red eyes or dry mouths or become sleepy or very hungry. The drug can also make some people paranoid<sup>3</sup> (feeling like someone is out to hurt them or is plotting against them). Marijuana does the same harm cigarettes do to your lungs - steady users suffer coughs, wheezing<sup>4</sup>, frequent colds, and respiratory infections, like bronchitis.

## Activities :

### 1. Say if the following statements are True or False

	True	False
1. Marijuana is a drug most doctors advise people to use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Marijuana is a natural herb so it doesn't cause any harm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Smoking of Marijuana can cause mental sicknesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Some people think cigarette and Marijuana can be substituted one for another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Marijuana can cause hypertension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Diseases caused by cigarette smoking are also caused by Marijuana.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Marijuana doesn't make you feel hungry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Marijuana helps the memory to function well and learn better	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Mary Jane is a nickname of a drug that can kill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. <i>Cannabis sativa</i> is the botanical name of a natural harmful drug	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2. Do a small report about Marijuana according to this points :

1. description
2. common names
3. consequences on health

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<sup>2</sup> Difficile avere cognizione del tempo

<sup>3</sup> Paranoico

<sup>4</sup> Affanno