

How to drink soju like a Korean!

1. Receiving the drink

The older or most senior person will generally pour the first shot. Hold the shot glass with two hands when receiving drinks. If you are older feel free to use one hand when someone hands you a shot.

2. Pour the drink

No one should pour their own shot. Pour with two hands, especially to an older or more senior person.

3. Shoot the first shot

Turn your head to the side away from others and shoot the shot while holding the glass with two hands. The two hands is more a sign of respect while the turning of the head is more to avoid flashing your teeth which can be seen as disrespect.

4. Fill empty glasses

Ask the person if he or she would like to have another drink. Pour the drink with two hands, and if your glass is empty, he or she will offer to fill yours afterwards. Traditionally, one does not pour his or her own glass.

5. Togetherness

Much like how someone should not be pouring their own shots it follows that nobody should be drinking alone. I haven't seen this to be taken more as a sign of disrespect but more a chance to show solidarity. Taking shots with another builds a connection and a sense of companionship (at least that's the hope), don't let your friend take one alone and don't deny him or her the chance to be a good friend to you.

