

Name: .....

Class: .....

**Read the article and do the tasks below.**

Bullying in British schools has reached **epidemic** levels. Last week, England's Commissioner for Children said nearly every child was **affected** by the problem. Education ministers are keen to **reverse** the worrying trend, especially as today is the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Politicians are thinking about fining the parents of bullies up to \$1,700. Schools minister Jacqui Smith said: "This will send a strong message to parents that schools will not **tolerate** a failure to take responsibility for bullying." Other proposals give teachers the right to **restrain** students "through reasonable force" where necessary.

Ms. Smith said: "Bullying should never be tolerated in our schools, no matter what its **motivation**." She added that: "Children must know what is right and what is wrong." She said children must know what will happen if they cross the line. She spoke after many recent cases of violence in schools. Twelve-year-old bullies have **slashed** their victims with knives and used iron bars to beat students **unconscious**. One child was told she would be "dead meat" if she returned to school. It **seems** many of Britain's schoolchildren are more interested in **tormenting** and injuring other students than learning.

**Task 1: Use a dictionary to look up the meaning of these words. Then match the following words to their synonyms (the words have the same meaning).**

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|----------------|-----------------|
| a. epidemic    | 1. allow        |
| b. affected    | 2. appears      |
| c. reverse     | 3. reason       |
| d. tolerate    | 4. abusing      |
| e. restrain    | 5. touched      |
| f. motivation  | 6. hold back    |
| g. slashed     | 7. senseless    |
| h. unconscious | 8. widespread   |
| i. seems       | 9. cut          |
| j. tormenting  | 10. turn around |

1 - d	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**Task 2: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):**

Sentences	True	False
a. Britain's government announced it needs anti-bullying drugs.		
b. A government spokesman said bullying affects nearly every child.		
c. Parents of bullies could receive fines of over \$1,500.		
d. Proposals may give teachers rights to use maximum force with bullies.		
e. The education minister said some bullying is acceptable.		
f. Violent bullying disappeared from British schools many years ago.		
g. One child was forced to eat the meat of a dead animal.		
h. Many of Britain's students don't seem so interested in learning.		