impolite. 'If a student behaves badly, the police officer will punish offenders and give them a ticket,' explains one student. The ticket might say you have to pay a fine, or appear in court. The fines can be up to $500, and many poorer parents don't have the money. [3] _____ These students will get a criminal record, and when they leave prison, it'll be impossible for them to get a job or go to college. This record will destroy their lives, and all because they did something wrong at school. Unfortunately, the situation isn't going to change. [4] _____ 'We need police in school,' says a twelve-year-old student at Fulmore. 'In my school, it can get physical and it can turn out very bad.' However, statistics tell us what happened in Colorado was unusual. Most schools do not face a serious threat of violence, and police officers often only deal with 'naughty' or immature students. School is not like the outside world. Children don't usually commit terrible crimes. Severe punishments for small offences may do more harm than good. In one incident, police officers pepper-sprayed a sixteen-year-old student when he didn't respond to an order. [5] _____ When they pepper-sprayed him, he started swinging his arms around in pain and hit one of the officers by accident. Now the police are charging him with assault*, and he will probably spend time in prison. Police officers in schools may well be protecting some lives, but are they destroying others?

* zero tolerance policy = punishing all bad behaviour, even when it is not serious
* assault = when someone attacks another person

V insight Negative prefixes: *un-*, *im-*, *ir-* and *il-*

6 Study the adjectives from the article and read the rules. Then write the correct negative prefixes.

1 _____happy
2 _____responsible
3 _____thinkable
4 _____legal
5 _____polite
6 _____possible
7 _____usual
8 _____mature

We often add the prefix *un-* to a word to make it negative. However, when the word starts with *l*, *m*, *p* or *r*, we often use a different prefix.

a *im-* + *m* or *p* perfect → imperfect
b *ir-* + *r* rational → irrational
c *il-* + *l* literate → illiterate

7 Add the correct negative prefixes to the adjectives.

■ fortunate ■ helpful ■ logical ■ moral ■ practical ■ regular ■ safe ■ surprising ■ tidy

8 Complete the sentences with negative adjectives in exercises 6 and 7.

1 I think my school is an _____ place to study. We really need the police.
2 The classroom looked _____ at the end of the lesson. There were bits of paper on the desks and on the floor.
3 Stop talking! It's _____ to hear what the teacher is saying.
4 When someone breaks the law and does something _____, it's necessary to punish them.
5 My brother is _____ at school. He's scared