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Complete Sentences

A *complete sentence* has both a *subject* and a *predicate*. A subject tells who or what the sentence is about. A predicate tells what the subject is or does. (*Hint: The predicate contains the verb.*)

Here are some examples of complete sentences. The subject is circled, and the predicate is underlined.

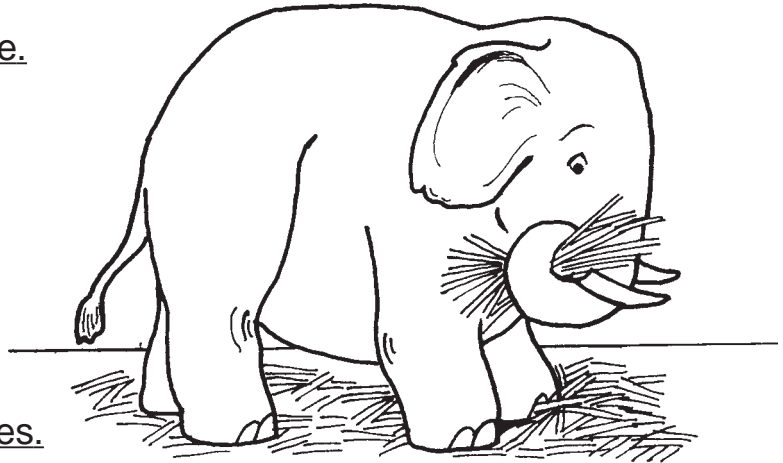
⇒ The elephant likes to eat hay.
subject predicate

⇒ Father made a birthday cake.
subject predicate

⇒ That tractor is so noisy!
subject predicate

⇒ Mrs. Diaz sewed a quilt.
subject predicate

⇒ The bird is feeding her babies.
subject predicate



Now, read the sentences below. Circle the subject and underline the predicate in each sentence.

1. Jim and John play kickball on the field.
2. The computer is making funny noises.
3. Katie's hamster loves carrots.
4. The crow stole the farmer's corn.
5. You like to ride your bike in the rain.

Too Many Words

Sometimes writers add too many words to their sentences. It makes sentences difficult to read.

Example: I am telling you the honest truth.

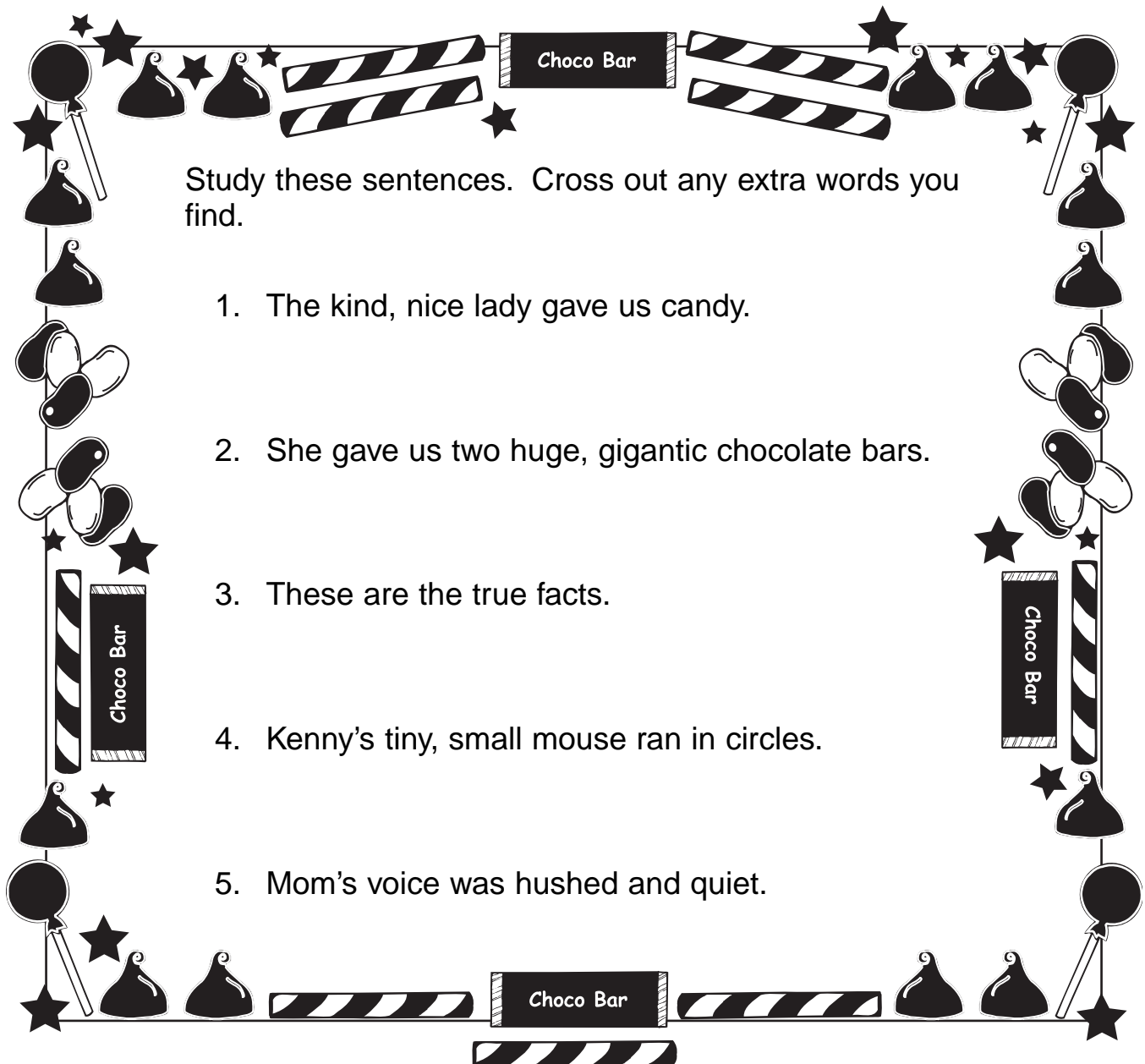
Correction: I am telling you the truth.

Explanation: The truth is already honest.

Example: He gave his mother a big, huge gold watch.

Correction: He gave his mother a big gold watch.

Explanation: “Big” and “huge” mean the same thing.



Study these sentences. Cross out any extra words you find.

1. The kind, nice lady gave us candy.
2. She gave us two huge, gigantic chocolate bars.
3. These are the true facts.
4. Kenny's tiny, small mouse ran in circles.
5. Mom's voice was hushed and quiet.