



Umbrellas

Umbrellas were made a long time ago. They were made for keeping the sun out of your eyes. They were made for keeping cool on hot days.

In China, they made the first umbrella to use in the rain. They put wax and paint on it. This made the rain run off the sides. It kept them dry when they walked. It kept them dry in the storm. They used bones from whales, and they used wood from the trees.



In 1852, Samuel Fox made a new kind of umbrella. It had steel parts. It had soft cloth. It was easy to put up and easy to put down. It was very light to carry.

Today umbrellas come in all sizes and shapes. They come in all colors. Some people use them in the rain. Others use them when it is hot. Some have umbrellas just for fun.

Today, umbrellas have many uses!

Directions: Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. For what was the first umbrella used?

- a. keeping cool on hot days
- b. keeping hot on cools days
- c. catching the rain
- d. keeping the person dry

2. If I wanted an umbrella, the best one to buy would be one that

- a. was too big to carry.
- b. had large holes.
- c. was any shape or color
- d. was very heavy

3. Antonyms are words that mean the opposite. *Hot* is an antonym for

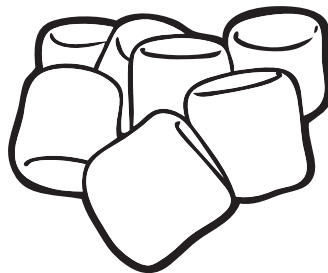
- a. lukewarm.
- b. sunny.
- c. warm.
- d. cold.



Marshmallows

Did you know that there was candy 2,000 years ago? It was made in Egypt. It was marshmallow candy. This candy was made from a root of a plant.

It was made out of the mallow root. This plant grew in the swamps. It grew in places that had lots of weeds. It was white inside. It was sticky and sweet.



Today we still eat candy that is made out of marshmallows. It is white and sweet. It is not made out of the root anymore. The candy is made out of gelatin. It still tastes good. It is still sticky and white.

As long as there are children, there will always be candy made out of sweet things.

Directions: Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. What did they use to make the first marshmallow candy?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a. a store | c. a tree |
| b. a bush | d. a root |

2. The word *sticky* means

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| a. messy and gooey. | c. spotless. |
| b. clean and neat. | d. dirt-free. |

3. Today they do not use the root to make the candy. What do they use?

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| a. gelatin | c. sugar |
| b. gum | d. milk |

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Butterfly Gardens

If you like butterflies, you can create a garden for them to visit.

Things you will need: a sunny place to plant things, seeds or seedlings, and a shallow dish of water.

First: Choose a sunny place with little or no wind.

Second: Pick flowers to plant. Butterflies like pink and white flowers with broad, flat blossoms.

Third: Plant the flowers in your garden.

Fourth: Put the shallow dish near the flowers and keep it filled with water. Butterflies need water.

Follow these steps, and you may find your garden filled with bright, beautiful butterflies through the summer.



Butterfly Gardens *(cont.)*

Reading Comprehension Questions

After reading the story, answer the questions. Circle the correct answer

1. What is the third step?
 - a. Fill the dish with water.
 - b. Plant the flowers.
 - c. Pick some flowers.
 - d. Choose a sunny place.
2. The word *seedling* means a
 - a. shallow dish.
 - b. flat blossom.
 - c. young plant.
 - d. sunny place.
3. This story is mostly about
 - a. sunny places with no wind.
 - b. keeping butterflies as pets.
 - c. making a butterfly garden.
 - d. making a flower garden.
4. A book with more ideas like this could be called
 - a. *Flowers for Your Garden.*
 - b. *Get a Butterfly to Visit You.*
 - c. *Billy Butterfly and the Big Brown Bear.*
 - d. *Planting Your Garden.*
5. Butterflies may visit your garden in the month of
 - a. February.
 - b. July.
 - c. January.
 - d. December.

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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.

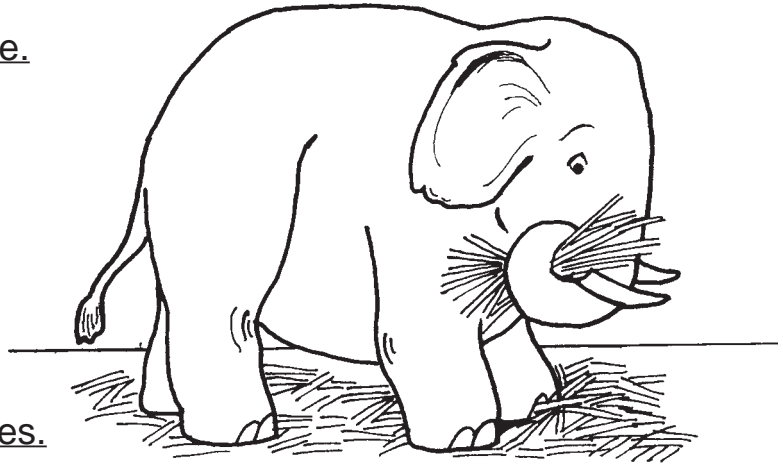
⇒ The elephant likes to eat hay.
subject predicate

⇒ 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.

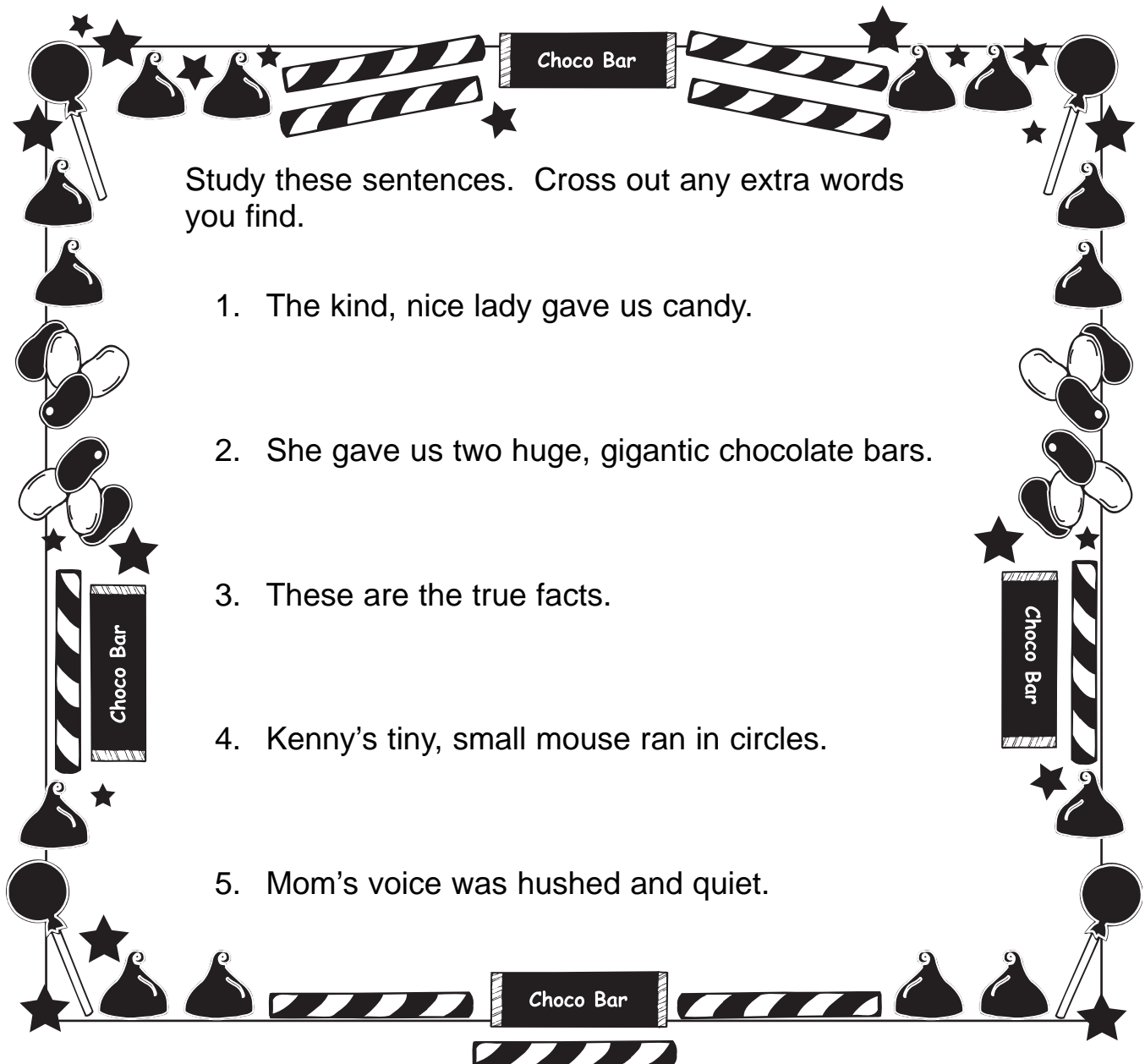
Correction: I am telling you the truth.

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.

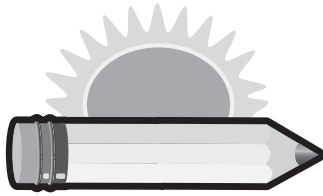


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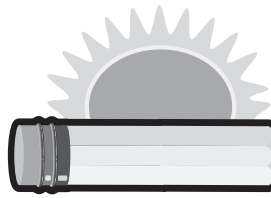


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Name _____

Date _____

HUMMINGBIRDS

Have you ever seen the tiny bird that never stops flying? Do you know its name? Have you seen how its wings flap so fast? Have you heard a bird humming?

It is called a hummingbird. It is one of the smallest birds. It is shorter than a pack of gum. Its long bill helps it drink the juice out of flowers. The juice is called nectar.

Hummingbirds have tongues to catch insects. Their tongues are sticky. Flying makes them very hungry. That is why they are always looking for flowers. They are always drinking nectar.

They live in forests, deserts, parks, and in the mountains. They live in fields and in valleys. Hummingbirds build nests for their babies anywhere they can find a quiet spot. They hunt for bugs and juice. The mother brings the food back to feed the babies.

If you see a bird that is flying quickly and is very tiny, it might be a hummingbird! Keep watching!



STORY QUESTIONS

1. A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. *Quickly* means . . .
 - a. hunt.
 - b. slow.
 - c. fast.
 - d. quiet.
2. Where do hummingbirds live?
 - a. forests, deserts, and parks
 - b. lakes and rivers
 - c. oceans
 - d. in tall trees
3. What is the name for the juice in the flower?

a. juice	c. sticky
b. nectar	d. hungry



Name _____ Date _____

SOLDIERS UNDER MY BED

Bang! Bang! Bang!

I woke up with a start. What was that noise? I lay very still. My ears were open wide.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

“What is that noise?” I asked myself.

“It is the soldiers under your bed. They play war at night,” said my teddy bear.

I sat up in bed. “Are you talking to me, Mr. Teddy Bear?”

“I am. Look under your bed. The soldiers fight at night. Didn’t you hear them before?”

“No. I was sleeping at night.”

“Look and see,” said Mr. Teddy Bear. “But do not let them see you!”

I put my head over the bed. The soldiers were lying on the floor. They had their guns in their hands. They were fighting and rolling. It was amazing. Their voices sounded tiny. They were shouting and yelling.

I sat up. “Mr. Teddy Bear, do they always fight at night?” I asked.

“Most of the time. They want the toy box. The team that wins gets to sleep under there.”

“Wow,” I said. “Soldiers fighting over a toy box. Who would have guessed?”

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How do you think the child felt when he heard the noise?
 - a. brave
 - b. scared
 - c. mad
 - d. sad
2. What made the noise?
 - a. a ball bouncing
 - b. tiny soldiers fighting
 - c. mother knocking on the door
 - d. tree branches blowing against the window
3. What were they fighting about?
 - a. who gets to play with Mr. Teddy Bear
 - b. who gets to jump on the toy box
 - c. who would sleep under the toy box
 - d. who would get to play outside