

“Fine,” said Oopsy, “follow this, Fred,”  
and this is what he said:

Oopsy is trying to show Mud the difference between action and linking verbs. “Daisy was hazy” has a linking verb and subject complement, but “Oopsy sipped soup, see?” has an action verb and a direct object.

“Daisy *was* hazy, but  
Oopsy *sipped* soup, see?”

“No,” said Mud, whose name was *Mud*.

“Fine, Fred,” said Oopsy, “Follow further.”  
and this is what he said, very slowly:

“Daisy *eats* fish, and  
Mud *is* a fish. See?”

Mud raised a scaly eyebrow;  
“No,” he said, “and I don’t like that sentence!”  
Daisy flopped and flapped, and said,  
“The figure, Oopsy, show him the figure.”  
Oopsy looked dubiously at Mud, but said,  
“Fine, Fred. Follow this,”  
and he drew in the sand with his bill.

