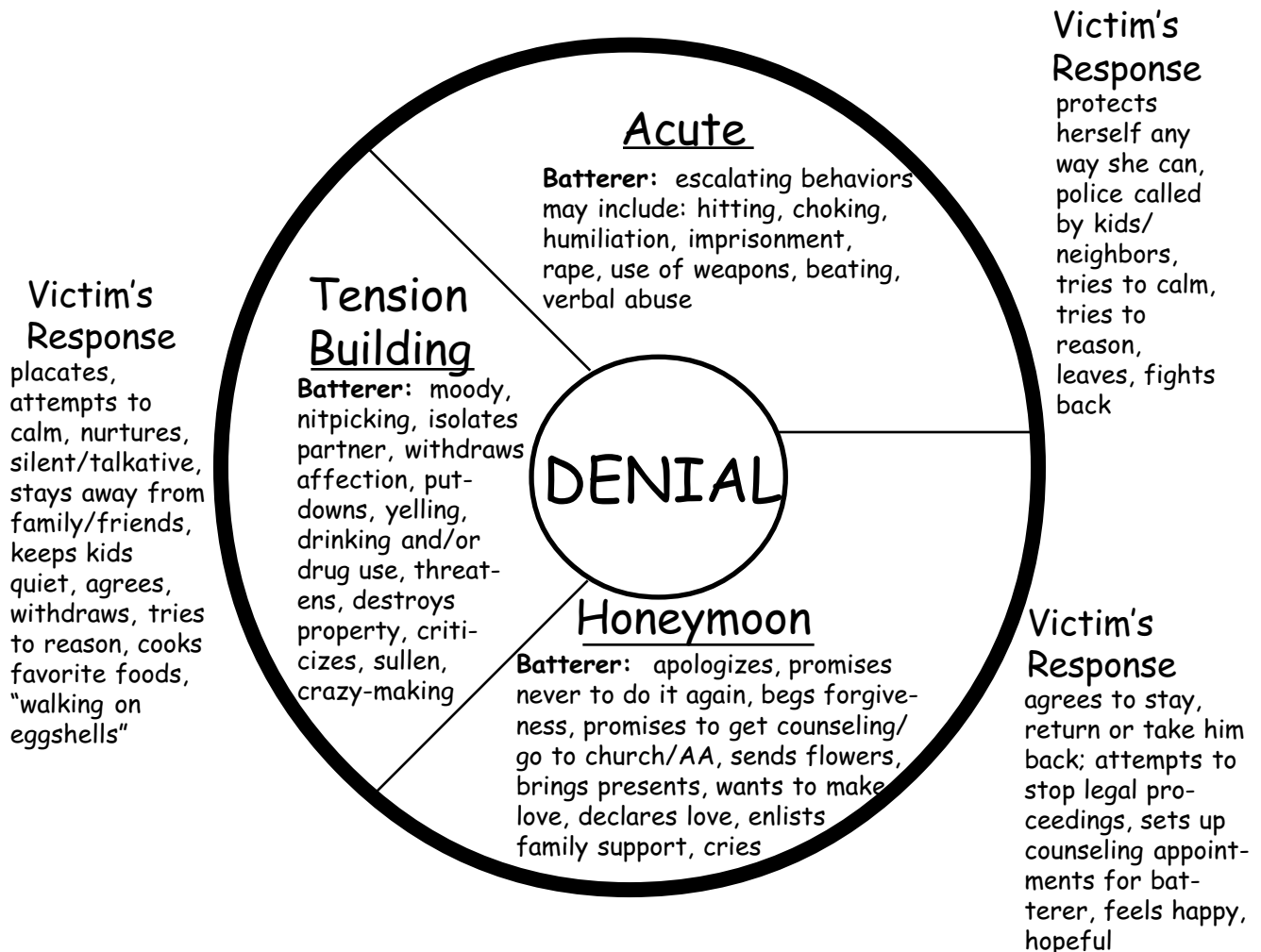


# Cycle of Violence



## How DENIAL Works

### Tension Building

**Victim:** denies it's happening, excuses it as some outside stress (work, etc.); takes blame for batterer's behavior, denies that the abuse will worsen.

**Batterer:** denies by blaming the tension on the victim, work, anything; by using drugs/alcohol denies responsibility for actions.

### Acute

**Victim:** denies injuries or severity of injuries ("I bruise easily." "It's nothing."), doesn't request medical or police help; blames batterer's violence on drinking ("Didn't know what they were doing."); does not label forced sex rape because it was a partner.

**Batterer:** blames violence on victim, stress, etc., ("They asked for it.")

### Honeymoon

**Victim:** minimizes injuries ("It could have been worse."); believes this is the way it will stay; believes batterer's promises; believes it won't happen again.

**Batterer:** also believes it won't happen again.