Simple Past Tense

In a field one summer's day a grasshopper _____ (hop) about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. A group of ants _____ (walk) by. They _____ (grunt) as they _____ (carry) plump kernels of corn.

"Where are you going with those heavy things?" _____ (ask) the grasshopper.

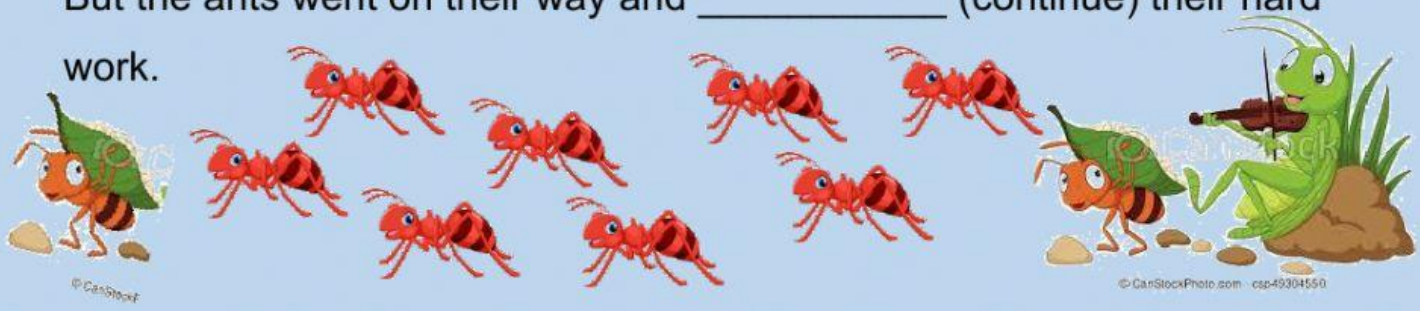
Without stopping, the first ant _____ (reply), "To our ant hill. This is the third kernel I've _____ (deliver) today."

"Why not come and sing with me," _____ (tease) the grasshopper, "instead of working so hard?"

"We are gathering food for the winter," said the ant, "and we think you should do the same."

"Winter is far away and it is a glorious day to play," sang the grasshopper.

But the ants went on their way and _____ (continue) their hard work.



The weather soon _____ (turn) cold. All the food lying in the field was _____ (cover) with a thick white blanket of snow. Soon the grasshopper found itself dying of hunger.

He _____ (stagger) to the ants' hill and saw them handing out the corn they had _____ (collect) in the summer. He _____ (beg) them for something to eat.

"What!" _____ (cry) the ants in surprise, "haven't you _____ (store) anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store any food," _____ (complain) the grasshopper; "I was so busy playing music that before I knew it the summer was gone."

The ants shook their heads in disgust, _____ (turn) their backs on the grasshopper and went on with their work.

Don't forget -- there is a time for work and a time for play!