

Lesson 10

THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER

A.WARMER

*Sometimes we ignore our duties. Have you ever done that?
Why did you do it and what happened when you did so?*

In the cold region near the northern most part of the world, it was summer time.

Everyone there looked forward to summer after the horribly cold winter. The sun shone brightly and all the creatures were happy. The grasshopper was relaxing and playing music happily. He was content to play music and sit in the sun.



The ant kept scurrying up and down, carrying grains of wheat. She looked tired and hot. She must have worked for a long time.

‘Why are you bustling about in this weather?’ the grasshopper asked the ant.

‘I’m preparing for winter when there will be less food. And I think you should do so too!’ The ant replied.

The grasshopper ignored the advice of the ant. After the severe winter, the sun was perfect. The grasshopper was enjoying the sunshine far too much to start collecting food for the winter. So he lay on the warm grass and began to play his music again. Soon the winter came. The grass was cold and frosty, and the wind howled across the fields. The ant was sleeping happily in her home because her larder was full of corn and wheat. She knew that she had enough food to last the entire winter.

The grasshopper was starting to get hungry. He looked outside to see if there was grass to eat. But it was too cold for the grass outside to grow, and so there was no food for the grasshopper.

For a while the grasshopper wondered what to do. Suddenly he remembered that the ant would always have some food. So it went into the cold wind and walked to the ant’s house.

Please, may I have some of your food?’ the grasshopper begged.

The ant was angry and irritated because she had worked very hard to collect enough food for the long winter months ahead. ‘If you hadn’t been so lazy and had prepared for the winter, as I had suggested, you wouldn’t be hungry now. I don’t have any extra food for you.’ The ant went back to her warm fire and stocked cupboards, leaving the lazy grasshopper out in the cold. The grasshopper stood there not knowing what to do.

WORDS TO KNOW

grasshopper (n): (ग्रासहॉप(र) टिड्डा a jumping and chirping insect

region (n): (रीजन) क्षेत्र area

horribly (adv): (हौरिबली) अत्यधिक extremely, very much

creatures (n): (क्रीचःज) जीव living beings

content (adj): (कन्टॅन्ट) संतुष्ट satisfied

scurrying (v): (स्कॅरींग) छोटे कदमों से तेज चलते हुए running or moving hurriedly with short quick steps

bustling (v): (बस्लिंग) व्यस्तता से कार्य करना working busily and energetically

ignore (v): (इग्नॅः) अनदेखा करना pay no attention

advice (n): (अड्वाइस) सलाह, राय suggestion

severe (adj): (सिविय(र) बहुत अधिक harsh, extreme

frosty (adj): (फ्रॉस्टी) बर्फानी **cold with frozen dew**

howl (v): (हाउल) तेज आवाज **wailing noise**

larder (n): (लॉड(र)) भण्डार **place for storing food**

wondered (v): (वन्डॅड) चिन्तित **failed to understand**

beg (v): (बेग) मांगना / याचना / प्रार्थना करना **ask for**

irritated (v): (इरिटेटिड) खिन्न हुआ **annoyed**

B. LET'S THINK AND TELL

B.1. Answer the following questions orally:

1. Why did all the creatures look happy?
2. What was the grasshopper doing during the warm weather?
3. What was the ant doing in the summer?
4. What advice did the ant give to the grasshopper?
5. What happened to the ant and the grasshopper during the winter season?
6. Why did the ant refuse to give food to the grasshopper?

C. LET'S THINK AND WRITE

C.1. Write whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F):

1. The grasshopper looked very worried.
2. The ant didn't rest at all.

3. The grasshopper was responsible for his sufferings.
4. The ant was very generous and kind.
5. The grasshopper realised his mistake.

C.2. Tick (✓) the right option that will complete each of the incomplete statements :

1. The grasshopper had nothing to eat in the winter because
 - (a) it didn't save anything for winter
 - (b) the ant had deceived him
 - (c) its food was spoiled
2. The ant's store had
 - (a) enough food (b) very little food
 - (c) just enough food
3. The story tell us that
 - (a) one should enjoy one's life
 - (b) one should sympathise with others
 - (c) one should take care of one's future

D. LET'S INCREASE WORD POWER

D. 1. Here are some jumbled words. Rearrange the letters in each word to create meaningful words:

- (a) lohw (b) cvaide (c) netotcn (d) lirobhyr (e) tofsyr

D.2. Match the words with their meanings. One has been done.

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| region | total |
| creature | area |
| tired | idle |
| collect | gather |
| entire | sufficient |
| enough | exhausted |
| lazy | living beings |

E. LET'S LEARN GRAMMAR

Look at the words in bold in the following sentence from the story:

In the cold region near **the** northern most part of the world, **it was** summer time.

In the sentence given above, 'in' is a preposition, 'the' is an article, 'cold' is an adjective, 'region' is a noun, 'it' is a pronoun, 'was' is a verb. Now pick out different parts of speech from the story and write them under the table below:

Prepositions			
Articles			
Verbs			
Adjectives			
Nouns			
Pronouns			

F. LET'S TALK AND WRITE

F.1. Read the information about grasshoppers in the box.

Ask and answer the questions such as the following:

Appearance

- Brown, with some darker markings
- Black herringbone pattern on hind femur
- Big hind legs for jumping
- 2 pairs of wings: forewings narrow and relatively hard; hind wings large, membranous
- Antennae not very long, 20-24 segments
- Conspicuous eyes
- Cerci (pair of appendages at end of abdomen) unjointed

Where found

Grasshoppers are around in the spring and summer. They are most noticeable in the autumn. We can find them in grassy areas, small “vacant” lots and gardens. At night, we can find grasshoppers roosting on the leaves. In the summer and autumn, some grasshoppers fly into porch lights.

How to catch them

Encourage students to bring in grasshoppers. Catching grasshoppers may require patience and determination. Grasshoppers are perceptive and can sense you when you are several feet away. You can swing an insect net or place the net over the plant while holding up the bottom of the net. With your hand gently coax grasshoppers into the net. They will walk or jump up into the net. Once in the net, gently pick up the

grasshopper and place it in a container. It is also possible to collect grasshoppers by very slowly moving a glass or plastic vial towards the grasshopper's head and they will jump into it.

- Which feature of the grasshoppers' appearance strikes you the most?
- Where are grasshoppers found?
- How many wings do they have?
- Which part of the body helps them to jump?
- What precautions one must take to catch grasshoppers?

G. LET'S LISTEN AND WRITE

Listen to the teacher and write.

Teacher should read out the following piece aloud and ask children to write. Students will not open their books while listening to the teacher.

Have you ever wondered how ants are able to communicate with each other? They don't talk like human beings, so how do they let their buddies know when they've found a big pile of food, or if a predator is nearby?

Though ants might not speak like you or I do, they actually have a very detailed "language" that uses movement and...believe it or not, smell! Ants release a special type of chemical called "pheromones" – by smelling the pheromones, other ants are able to follow the scent trail to food, protect their young, or even protect each other in event of danger.

In addition to smell, ants will use touch to make a point. For example, if one ant finds a pile of food, it will rub its antennae and front legs on its neighbour to get its attention and pass on the good news! To help with this, their legs are covered in special hairs that make them even more sensitive and able to feel touch and vibrations.

