



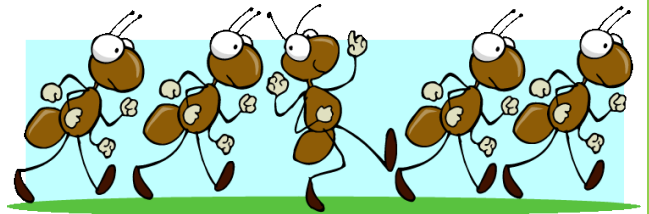
Word game: Limerick puns

Author O. Henry (aka William Sydney Porter) was famous for his surprise endings, the essence of puns, which may be why the annual O. Henry Pun-off and Limerick Day is held on the grounds of the O. Henry Museum in Austin, Texas, where he lived from 1893 to 1895.

Following are a few examples of limerick puns from the website <http://www.punpunpun.com>. The first is by Kirk Miller; the rest are by O. Henry pun-off competitor Chris Caillouet. If you enjoy puns, also try these websites: www.punoftheday.com, and www.ahajokes.com.

Can you fill in the missing punch line/rhyme?

The ant basketball team made a vow
To get better, but didn't know how.
No, it just wasn't right
To be lacking in height.
What they needed were _____, _____



A shy piece of celery, named Walker
Truly bored Bloody Mary, a talker.
Once she'd told him goodbye,
He'd still sneak around and spy
For he was, by his nature, a _____

A young manicurist named Gail
Fell in love with a dentist named Dale
They might still be together
Were they birds of a feather,
But they constantly fought _____





To the matador's woe and dismay
He discovered his skin had turned gray.
When he asked his Mama
For a cure to this flaw,
She replied, "Try my Oil of ____"

An old Catholic priest, Father Blass
Dealt a message both condemning and crass.
His sermon was loaded,
And it finally exploded
When his flock had reached critical _____



More playing with words:

Why piccolo profession like music that's full of viol practices,
confirmed lyres, old fiddles, and bass desires?
For the lute, of course.

Answers:

1. tolerance, now (taller ants, now)
2. tooth and nail
3. a stalker
4. Olé (Olay)
5. mass