Once upon a time there lived a cat and a mouse. One fine day, the cat bit the mouse's tail off. "Give me back my tail," said the mouse.

And the cat said, "Well, I (give) ____________ you back your tail if you fetched me some milk. But that's impossible to do for a little mouse like you."

The mouse, however, went to the cow.

"The cat (give / only) ______________ me back my tail if I fetch her some milk."

And the cow said, "Well, I would give you some milk if you (get) ___________ me some hay. But that's impossible to do for a little mouse like you."

The mouse, however, went to the farmer.

"The cat will only give me back my tail if the cow (give) __________________ me some milk. And the cow (only / give) __________________ me milk if I get her some hay."

And the farmer said, "Well, I would give you some hay if you (bring) __________ me some meat. But that's impossible to do for a little mouse like you."

The mouse, however, went to the butcher.

"The cat will only give me back my tail if the cow (give) __________________ me some milk. And the cow will only give me milk if she (get) ___________ some hay. And the farmer (only / give) __________ me hay if I bring him some meat."

And the butcher said, "Well, I would give you some meat if you (make) __________ the baker bake me a bread. But that's impossible to do for a little mouse like you."

The mouse, however, went to the baker.
"The cat (give / only) ___________________________ 11 me back my tail if I fetch her some milk. And the cow (give / not) ___________________________ 12 me milk if I don't bring her hay. And the farmer will only give me hay if butcher (have) _____________ 13 some meat for him. And the butcher will not give me meat if you (bake / not) ___________________________ 14 him a bread."

And the baker said, "Well, I (give) ___________________________ 15 you some bread if you promise never to steal my corn or meal."

The mouse promised not to steal, and so the baker gave the mouse bread, the mouse gave the butcher bread. The butcher gave the mouse meat, the mouse gave the farmer meat. The farmer gave the mouse hay, the mouse gave the cow hay. The cow gave the mouse milk, the mouse gave the cat milk. And the cat gave the mouse her tail back.

But imagine what would have happened otherwise:

If the mouse (promised / not) ___________________________ 16 never to steal corn or meal, the baker (not/give) ___________________________ 17 the mouse bread.

If the baker (not / give) ___________________________ 18 the mouse bread, the butcher (not /leave) ___________________________ 19 her any meat for the farmer.

If the butcher (not / leave) ___________________________ 20 her any meat, the farmer (not / be) ___________________________ 21 willing to give the mouse hay.

If the farmer (not / be) ___________________________ 22 willing to give the mouse hay, the mouse (not /fetch) ___________________________ 23 milk from the cow.

If the mouse (not /fetch) ___________________________ 24 milk from the cow, she (not / get) ___________________________ 25 back her tail.

- The End -
Lösungen:

1) would give 14) don't / do not bake
2) will only give 15) will give
3) got 16) had not promised
4) gives 17) would not have given
5) will only give 18) had not given
6) brought 19) would not have left
7) gives 20) had not left
8) gets 21) would not have been
9) will only give 22) had not been
10) made 23) would not have fetched
11) will only 24) had not fetched
12) won't / will not give 25) would not have got
13) has

Vokabeln:

Once upon a time  Es war einmal
bite off-bit off-bitten off  abbeißen, biss ab, abgebissen
tail  Schwanz
fetch  herbringen, holen
hay  Heu
meat  Fleisch
butcher  Fleischer
make sb. do sth.  jmdn. dazu bringen etwas zu tun
promise  versprechen
steal  stehlen
corn  Getreide
meal  Schrotmehl
imagine  sich etw. vorstellen
happen  passieren
otherwise  anderenfalls