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) __________ me back my tail if I fetch her some milk. And the cow (give / not) __________ me milk if I don't bring her hay. And the farmer will only give me hay if butcher (have) __________ some meat for him. And the butcher will not give me meat if you (bake / not) __________ him a bread."

And the baker said, "Well, I (give) __________ 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) __________ never to steal corn or meal, the baker (not / give) __________ the mouse bread. If the baker (not / give) __________ the mouse bread, the butcher (not / leave) __________ her any meat for the farmer. If the butcher (not / leave) __________ her any meat, the farmer (not / be) __________ willing to give the mouse hay. If the farmer (not / be) __________ willing to give the mouse hay, the mouse (not / fetch) __________ milk from the cow. If the mouse (not / fetch) __________ milk from the cow, she (not / get) __________ back her tail.

- The End -

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Lösungen:

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

Vokabeln:

Once upon a time
bite off-bit off-bitten off
tail
fetch
hay
meat
butcher
make sb. do sth.
promise
steal
corn
meal
imagine
happen
otherwise

Es war einmal
abbeißen, biss ab, abgebissen
Schwanz
herbringen, holen
Heu
Fleisch
Fleischer
jmdn. dazu bringen etwas zu tun
versprechen
stehlen
Getreide
Schrotmehl
sich etw. vorstellen
geschehen
passieren
anderenfalls

The Cat
and the Mouse

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