

**About the rat which was turned into a beautiful lady.**

*Once upon a time, a hermit lived in a remote land. The hermit happened to see a hawk that was flying through the skies carrying a rat in its beak. When he saw it, he begged God to make the rat fall near him. He started praying and after a moment the rat fell beside him. Then he asked God to turn it into a beautiful lady and He, in return pleased the hermit. The lady was tall and had blond hair. Her eyes were blue and she was as delicate as a rose.*

*The hermit asked her if she wanted to marry the Sun. "I'm afraid not," the lady replied " I do not wish to marry the sun because it sometimes hides behind the clouds and its brightness can't be seen." The hermit tried again and asked her if she wanted to marry the moon. The lady refused again because the moon has no proper light and takes it from the sun. This time, the hermit invited the lady to marry the clouds. Again, she did not accept because she said that the wind often takes the clouds where he wants. As she had mentioned the wind, the hermit offered her the chance to marry him. Once again, she refused this time because she believed that the mountains do not let him blow freely; nor did she want to marry the mountains because rats make holes through them and destroy them. Finally, he asked her if she wanted to marry a man but she refused this too because men kill rats. At last, the lady asked the hermit to pray to God to turn her into a rat once more and beg Him to find a male rat for her so that she could marry him.*

**QUESTIONS.**

1. What did the hermit see?
2. What did the hermit ask God?
3. Did the lady marry the sun? Why?
4. Did the lady marry the moon? Why?
5. What did the lady ask the hermit to beg God?
6. Take out from the text all the verbs in the passive voice and tell their tense.
7. In the text there is a sentence in the direct speech. Take it out from it and transform it into the indirect speech.
8. Rewrite the text using your own words in not more than 50 words.
9. Vocabulary:

Beast:

Rat:

Hole:

Pray: