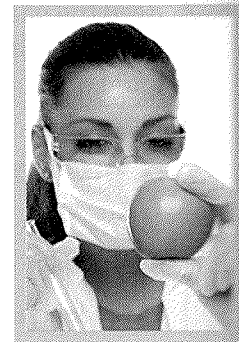


1 Grammar in the Real World 

**A** What do you know about genetically modified food? Read the article about genetically modified food. What are some genetically modified foods?



Genetically Modified Food



Genetically modified<sup>1</sup> (GM) foods come from plants that **have been changed** in a laboratory. This technology alters the genes<sup>2</sup> of the plants. It was developed so that food could have specific, desirable traits. For example, the first GM crop in the United States consisted  
5 of tomatoes that were genetically changed to stay firmer longer.

Many people have strong opinions about the potential<sup>3</sup> benefits and risks of GM agriculture. For example, those in favor of GM foods believe that crops **should be designed** to resist insects. They point to the example of sweet corn. They say that sweet corn **used to be destroyed** by pests. This created serious problems. Farmers lost  
10 money. Crops **got damaged** and **could not be eaten**. Therefore, they say that a great benefit **can be found** in GM sweet corn, which has been modified to resist insects that cause damage. People who oppose GM foods see the issue differently. They cite<sup>4</sup> a study that links GM corn to organ<sup>5</sup> damage in rats. They claim that the safety of these crops has not been tested adequately.<sup>6</sup>

15 GM supporters see GM soybeans as another beneficial crop. These crops are not harmed by a powerful weed-killing chemical. This chemical kills weeds the first time it is applied, so farmers use less of it. Supporters say that this improves air and water quality since fewer pollutants enter the environment. Critics argue that the weeds are no longer affected by the weed killer, and new "superweeds" are growing. Therefore, farmers have  
20 to use more chemicals to save their crops.

<sup>1</sup>**modify**: change something in order to improve it | <sup>2</sup>**gene**: a code that controls the development of particular characteristics in a plant or animal | <sup>3</sup>**potential**: possible but not yet achieved | <sup>4</sup>**cite**: mention something as an example or proof of something else | <sup>5</sup>**organ**: a vital part of the body, like the heart, lungs, and kidneys | <sup>6</sup>**adequately**: good enough but not very good