

**LISTENING TAPESCRIPT**  
**(Please read twice)**

If someone told you that tomato you're eating contains a gene taken from a fish, would you continue eating it? Like animal cloning, the genetic modification of crops is a hot topic at the moment, especially in Britain, where many people are protesting against it. Recently, even Prince Charles joined the campaign.

Genetically modified, or GM, crops are fruits, vegetables or cereals whose DNA has been changed to make them better in some way. For example, taking a certain gene out of a certain plant and replacing it with a different one might make the plant more resistant to disease or stop pests from eating it. Changing the genetic structure of a plant could also make its fruit more nutritious, or allow it to be grown in a different climate. It is even possible to take out genes that make people allergic to a certain type of food. In Japan scientists have produced a new type of rice that will not cause an allergic reaction in people allergic to normal rice. This could be extremely important to millions of people in Asia whose main food is rice.

So, if GM crops are such a good thing, why are so many people worried about them? First of all, there is concern about the effects on the environment. It is thought that these new crops will be able to spread their genes to related wild plants and weeds by the natural process of pollination and reproduction. If farmers grow a crop that is more resistant to disease or pests, then it is possible that close relatives of that plant in or near the field will gradually be genetically modified in the same way. This, people say, will lead to the creation of superweeds that will eventually spread everywhere, leaving no room for other plants. This, in turn, will mean animals and birds will be affected. The countryside will dramatically change in a way we won't be able to reverse.

Another concern people have about GM crops relates to allergies. It is possible, as in the case of the Japanese rice, that genetic modification will stop people being allergic to certain crops. However, there is also the fear that introducing a new gene could introduce a new allergy. For example, in the early 1990s scientists in America created a more nutritious type of soya bean by adding a gene taken from Brazil nuts. But in tests it was discovered that people allergic to Brazil nuts were also allergic to the new soya beans; because of this there are calls for the clear labelling of GM products so everybody knows exactly what they're buying.

Some people ask whether there is such a big difference between genetic techniques and the traditional breeding that has been used for hundreds of years. But more and more people – and many scientists – believe that there has not been enough testing done on GM crops, and that they should not be more widely used until we are 100% sure of their safety, both for humans and the environment.

**R O L E P L A Y**

**Student**

Your town has been appointed to organise the Olympic Games next winter. You are one of the members of the town committee who must decide whether or not to accept the offer.

You think this is a great chance for the development of your town and region; new areas for sports will be built, the region and the town will get money to support the event, and the people who need to be involved in its preparation will have job opportunities. It is the best way to promote the town, the region, and the country.

Your colleagues on the committee are against and can only see the negative aspects of this event.

You start...

**R O L E P L A Y**

**Teacher**

Your town has been appointed to organise the Olympic games next winter. You are one of the members of the town committee who must decide whether or not to accept the offer.

Your colleague is in favour of organising this event in your town and region, he/she can see a lot of positives in this. You and other members of the committee are pessimistic and are against this opportunity to organise the Olympic Games here because there are not enough people to organise the event and there are only a few sports facilities and very little accommodation capacity available for so many sportsmen and visitors. Moreover, you think it will harm the environment.

He/She starts...

PICTURE STORY

Make up a story about the people in the picture.



**A n s w e r   K e y**

**GRAMMAR – 15 points**

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. enjoy            | 9. am expected               |
| 2. without          | 10. will be / is going to be |
| 3. had to           | 11. floating                 |
| 4. how              | 12. that                     |
| 5. the              | 13. am dressed               |
| 6. in               | 14. stops                    |
| 7. is not / isn't   | 15. am having                |
| 8. learnt / learned |                              |

**7.5 pts (0.5 pt each)**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 16. correct (C) | 24. with        |
| 17. have        | 25. correct (C) |
| 18. correct (C) | 26. be          |
| 19. to          | 27. had         |
| 20. the         | 28. correct (C) |
| 21. through     | 29. of          |
| 22. correct (C) | 30. correct (C) |
| 23. in          |                 |

**7.5 pts (0.5 pt each)**

**VOCABULARY – 10points**

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. starring   | 6. free      |
| 2. truly      | 7. quickly   |
| 3. Alaskan    | 8. dangerous |
| 4. underneath | 9. northern  |
| 5. activist   | 10. partly   |

**READING COMPREHENSION – 10 points**

1. B   2. C   3. C   4. A   5. B   6. B   7. C   8. C   9. A   10. B

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 5 points**

1. cereals   2. weeds   3. nuts   4. safety

**2pts (0.5 pt each)**

5. F   6. F   7. T   8. T   9. T   10. F

**3 pts (0.5 pt each)**

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