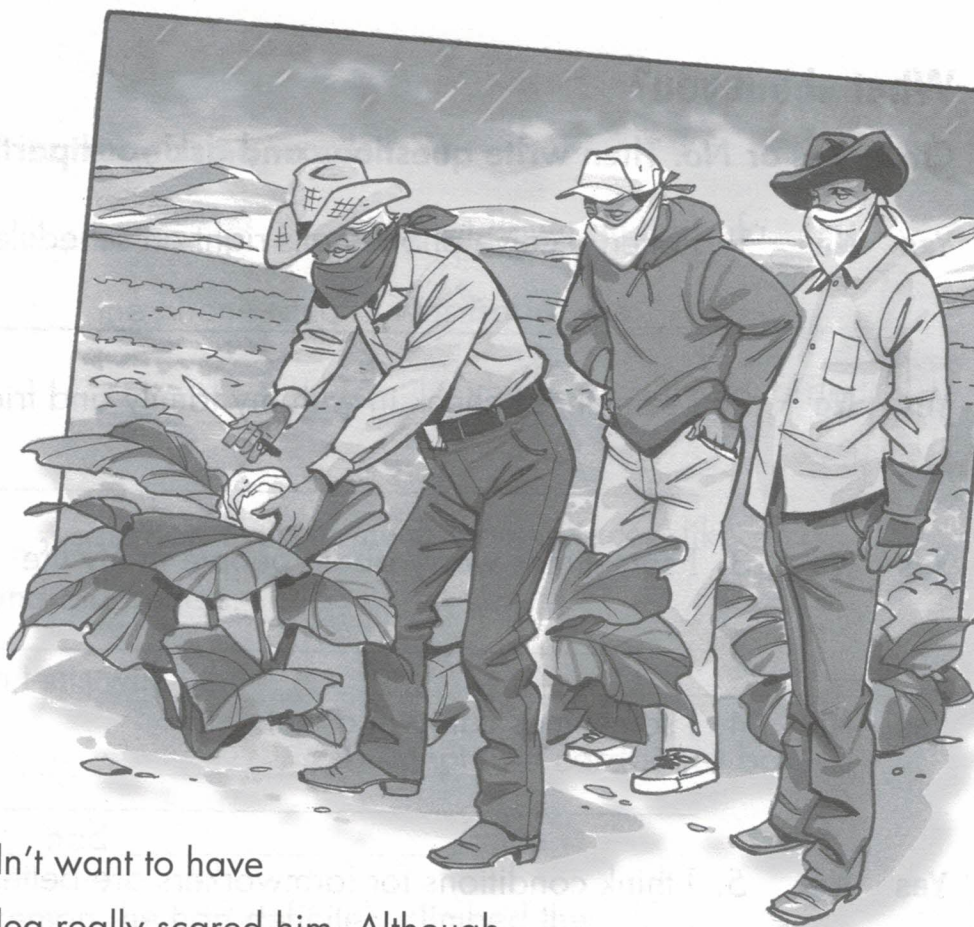


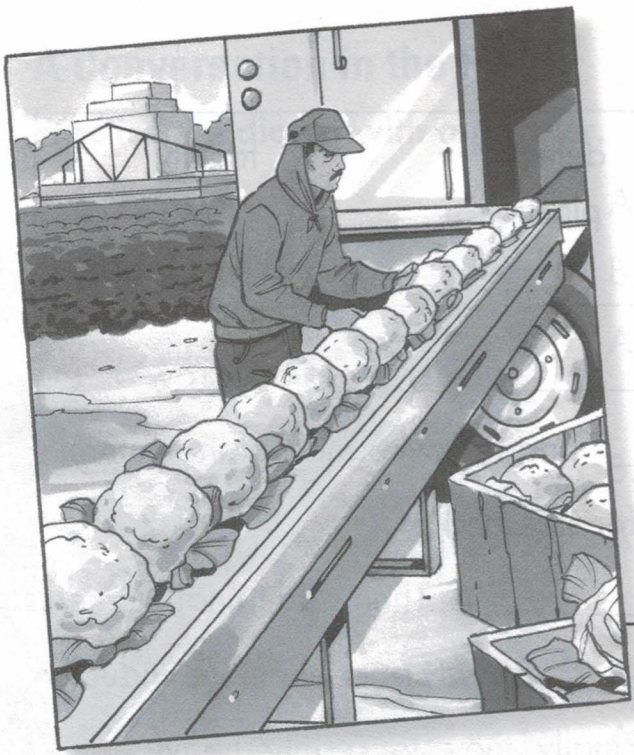
## Chapter 4 Many Skills



Deep down, Rafael didn't want to have surgery on his eyes. The idea really scared him. Although most people had good results after the operation, not everyone did. After his wife's horrible illness, Rafael felt wary of hospitals and medical procedures. For now, it was easier to ignore his cataracts and focus on more pressing things, like the cauliflower harvest.

On a cool, rainy morning in the Salinas Valley, Rafael was stooped over in an enormous cauliflower field. He showed the new farmworkers how to remove the white cauliflower heads from the leafy green plants. "Please be careful," Rafael reminded them in Spanish. "These knives are very sharp. Don't cut yourselves."

Rafael and the other workers moved down row after row of plants. First, they cut off each cauliflower and removed most of the outer green leaves. After they checked for size and defects, they put the heads of cauliflower on a conveyor. Then additional workers rinsed them with clean water. Next, packers wrapped them individually in plastic and put them in boxes. Finally, they stacked the heavy boxes on the big trailer and took the vegetables to the cooler, or cold storage facility.



Rafael didn't like the term "unskilled labor." Some people used it to describe the work that Rafael and other farmworkers did. But farmworkers have many skills. The job also requires knowledge and strength.

Working in agriculture is backbreaking and dangerous. Terrible things can occur in the fields—and in July, one did.

### Answer the questions.

1. Deep down, what didn't Rafael want to do?
2. What kind of results did most people have after the operation?
3. What did Rafael feel wary of?
4. For now, what was it easier to do?
5. Where was Rafael stooped over?
6. What did he show the new farmworkers?
7. Where did Rafael and the other farmworkers move?
8. What did they do first?
9. What did they check for? And where did they put the cauliflower heads?
10. What did additional workers do? What did the packers do?
11. Where did they stack the heavy boxes? Where did they take them?
12. What term didn't Rafael like? What did this job require?



### Complete the story.

cauliflower	conveyor	defects	facility
leaves	packers	plastic	row
skills	strength	trailer	unskilled labor

Rafael and the other workers moved down \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> after row of plants. First, they cut off each \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> and removed most of the outer green \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>. After they checked for size and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>, they put the heads of cauliflower on a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>. Then additional workers rinsed them with clean water. Next, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> wrapped them individually in \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> and put them in boxes. Finally, they stacked the heavy boxes on the big \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> and took the vegetables to the cooler, or cold storage \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>.

Rafael didn't like the term "\_\_\_\_\_." Some people used it to describe the work that Rafael and other farmworkers did. But farmworkers have many \_\_\_\_\_. This job requires knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_. Working in agriculture is backbreaking and dangerous.

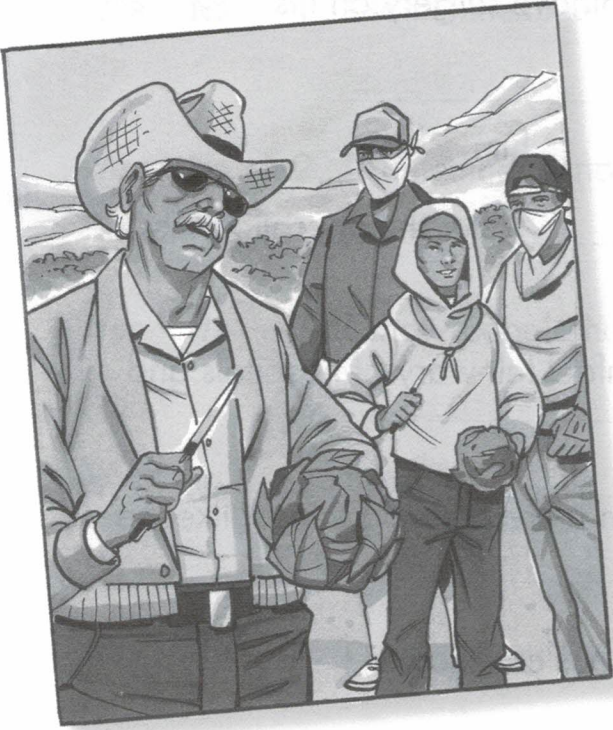
## Meanings

**Read each sentence. Look at the underlined word. Circle *a* or *b*.**

- It was easier to ignore his cataracts and focus on more pressing things, like the cauliflower harvest.  
a. important                      b. heavy
- Rafael was stooped over in an enormous cauliflower field.  
a. dirty                                b. very large
- Working in agriculture is backbreaking and dangerous.  
a. scary                                b. physically hard

## A Conversation in the Field

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. We're harvesting cauliflower today.
- B. Okay. So, what would you like us to do?
- A. First, use these knives to remove the white cauliflower head from the leafy green plant.
- B. Is this the right way?
- A. Yes, that's right. But please be careful. These knives are very sharp. Don't cut yourselves.
- B. What should we do next?
- A. Next, check for size and defects and put them on the conveyor.
- B. Sure. We can do that.
- A. Thanks for your hard work.

### Check the skills.

Working in agriculture requires many skills. Check (✓) the skills farmworkers often use in their jobs. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> irrigating crops    | <input type="checkbox"/> learning quickly     | <input type="checkbox"/> building structures    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> harvesting          | <input type="checkbox"/> communicating        | <input type="checkbox"/> driving tractors       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> operating machinery | <input type="checkbox"/> using tools          | <input type="checkbox"/> training other workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> solving problems    | <input type="checkbox"/> working as a team    | <input type="checkbox"/> working safely         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lifting heavy items | <input type="checkbox"/> managing time        | <input type="checkbox"/> harvesting             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> planting            | <input type="checkbox"/> cultivating the land | <input type="checkbox"/> spraying fertilizers   |
- 
- 
-

## Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. Deep \_\_\_\_\_, Rafael didn't want to have surgery on his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ really \_\_\_\_\_ him.
3. Although most people had good \_\_\_\_\_ after the operation, not everyone did.
4. After his wife's horrible \_\_\_\_\_, Rafael felt wary of hospitals and medical \_\_\_\_\_.
5. It was easier to ignore his cataracts and focus on more pressing things, like the cauliflower \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Rafael was \_\_\_\_\_ over in an enormous cauliflower \_\_\_\_\_.
7. He showed the new \_\_\_\_\_ how to remove the \_\_\_\_\_ cauliflower heads from the leafy green plants.
8. "Please be \_\_\_\_\_," Rafael reminded them in \_\_\_\_\_.
9. "These \_\_\_\_\_ are very \_\_\_\_\_. Don't cut yourselves."
10. Rafael and the \_\_\_\_\_ workers moved down row after \_\_\_\_\_ of plants.

## Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

	<b>d</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>id</b>		<b>d</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>id</b>
1. stacked	_____	_____	_____	4. wanted	_____	_____	_____
2. scared	_____	_____	_____	5. ignored	_____	_____	_____
3. wrapped	_____	_____	_____	6. focused	_____	_____	_____



## What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

**Yes**   **No**   1. I sometimes feel wary of hospitals and medical procedures.

---

**Yes**   **No**   2. I sometimes ignore problems and focus on more pressing things.

---

**Yes**   **No**   3. I show people how to do things at work.

---

**Yes**   **No**   4. I remind people to be careful at work.

---

**Yes**   **No**   5. I know about the term "unskilled labor."

---

**Yes**   **No**   6. I think my job requires knowledge.

---

**Yes**   **No**   7. I think my job requires strength.

---

## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Why do some people feel wary of hospitals and medical procedures?
2. What are some other jobs that are both backbreaking and dangerous?
3. Why do you think some people use the term "unskilled labor" to describe the work that farmworkers do?