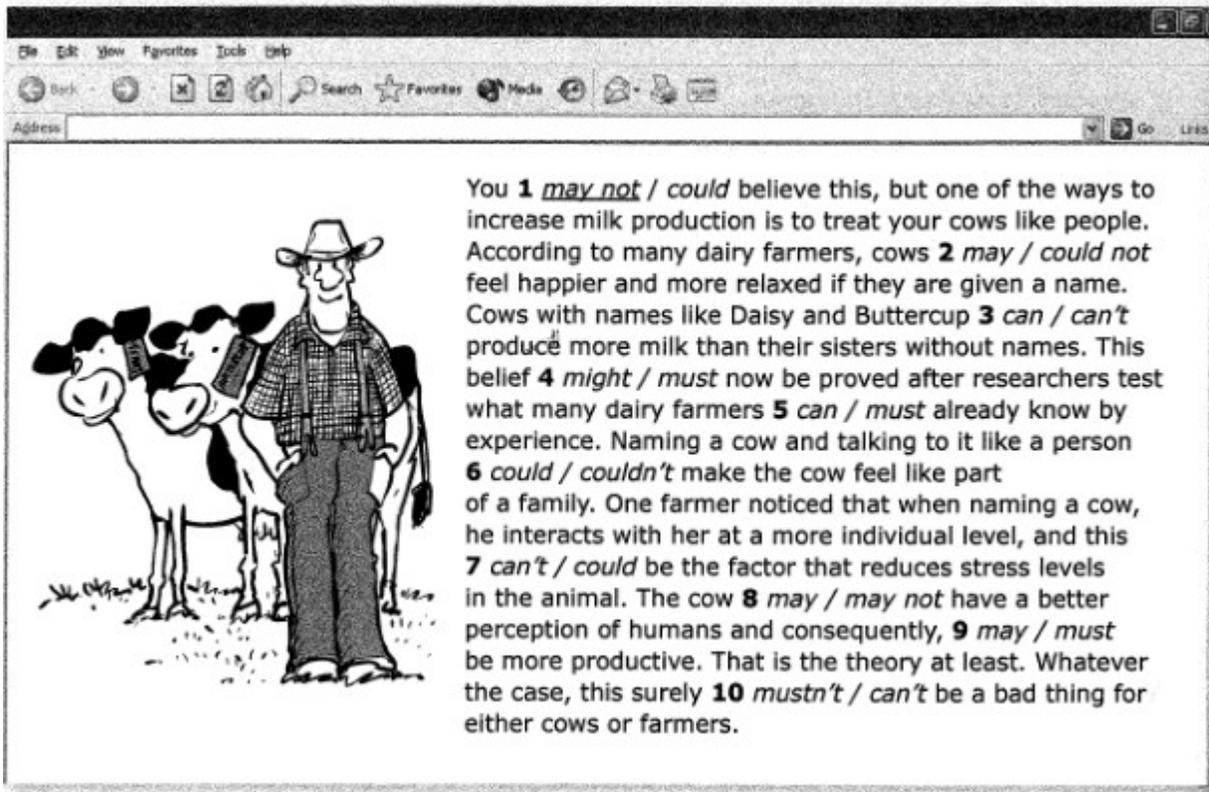# Grammar Exercises

Write *can('t)* **or** *could(n't)* **in the blanks.**

1 The payment is late so we _can't_ complete the order.
2 I preferred the old system of private offices to this open plan office. I _____ get more work done before they changed it.
3 They didn't know how to run the photocopy machine, so they _____ photocopy the files.
4 Ms. Erickson prefers to take the subway because she _____ find parking spaces near the office.
5 If you are having a problem with your computer, talk to Caleb. He _____ fix anything.
6 Zaira was originally hired because she _____ speak French with the people at our Marseille branch.

Read the following article and underline the word that completes the sentence.

You **1** *may not* / *could* believe this, but one of the ways to increase milk production is to treat your cows like people. According to many dairy farmers, cows **2** *may* / *could* not feel happier and more relaxed if they are given a name. Cows with names like Daisy and Buttercup **3** *can* / *can't* produce more milk than their sisters without names. This belief **4** *might* / *must* now be proved after researchers test what many dairy farmers **5** *can* / *must* already know by experience. Naming a cow and talking to it like a person **6** *could* / *couldn't* make the cow feel like part of a family. One farmer noticed that when naming a cow, he interacts with her at a more individual level, and this **7** *can't* / *could* be the factor that reduces stress levels in the animal. The cow **8** *may* / *may not* have a better perception of humans and consequently, **9** *may* / *must* be more productive. That is the theory at least. Whatever the case, this surely **10** *mustn't* / *can't* be a bad thing for either cows or farmers.

Choose the best ending to complete the sentences.

1 I saw Mrs. Bell in the office so	a she must be here. b she might be here.
2 Max didn't look well so he	a couldn't have canceled the meeting and gone home. b could have canceled the meeting and gone home.
3 He can't find my keys so	a he might have left them in the car. b he might leave them in the car.
4 Timothy said that he was very busy and	a he may not attend the inauguration party. b he may not have attended the inauguration party.
5 Not many people came to the convention.	a It couldn't be that it was at an inconvenient time. b It could be that it was at an inconvenient time.

Look at the images and write true or imaginary sentences about yourself. Use each of the words in the box.

| can | could | may | might | must | can't | couldn't | may not | might not | must not |

drive a car

snowboard

give a presentation

build a house

fix a computer

climb mountains

1. <u>I can drive a car, but I couldn't be a taxi or bus driver.</u>
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____