Prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells
The recent CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing method uses RNA-guided nuclease. That makes the process faster, easier and more specific compared to other gene editing methods. Since the DNA-binding element is RNA it is simple and cheap to manipulate and it allows sequence specific programming. The high targeting efficiency, results in significant time saving, e.g., for the generation of knockout mice. Furthermore, alteration of multiple genes in one step is possible (multiplexing).

In basic research CRISPR is mainly used in cell line engineering and animal genetic engineering (e.g. of disease models) to investigate gene function. In applied biotechnology genome editing is employed for the improvement of agricultural animals and plants, as well as the production of biopharmaceuticals or other biological molecules in the industry.
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