

Lesson 1
READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Smoke

Mark pulled the car into the right lane and applied the brake. A fire truck whizzed by, its siren blaring.

Mark was in a rush to get to the apartment. He and his wife Martha had squabbled that morning. He wished he hadn't spoken so sharply. Mark planned to apologize.

But as he drove north, he saw dark smoke billowing into the sky. Could it be his place that was on fire?

Martha was standing in the corner of the yard. She had been crying. He held her in his arms as she told him how quickly the scarlet flames had consumed all they owned.

The fire marshal said there would be an investigation to determine how the fire had started.

Mark hoped they could stay with his Aunt Florence awhile.