

## Lesson 9

## READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

**Respect the Ocean**

**Tourists are often beguiled by the beauty of the rolling waves. It's fun to stand in the surf and feel the sand move between your toes as the water slides back into the ocean.**

**But it is wise to have a healthy respect for the power of the ocean. It is not fun to be knocked down by a strong rogue wave. If powerful waves come too rapidly, you may not be able to regain your footing before another wave hits you.**

**You should also be aware of rip tides. They're caused by a sandbar on the floor of the ocean. The sandbar acts as a fence, preventing water that moves toward the shore from receding back into the ocean. The water piles up against this fence and flows along until it finds a break in the sandbar. Then the water rushes through the break with an awesome force. Rip tides are extremely dangerous for swimmers.**

**Usually there are signs on the beach to warn people about rip tides or strong waves. Yet each year, dangerous ocean currents extinguish the lives of people who did not pay attention to those warning signs.**