

Name:

Day One

Fires at Home

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What can you do to prevent fires at home? Read silently.

More than 3,500 Americans die in fires every year. Many of these fires occur at home, the place where people feel the safest. What are the fire hazards in our homes? Older electrical appliances can cause fires if their cords become frayed. If power cords are overloaded, short circuits can cause fires. Appliances like curling irons and space heaters can overheat and catch fire. Fires can also start on the stove or with matches.

One afternoon, a man was at home with his child and was also sitting for three other children. But he fell asleep while he was cooking, and the oven started a fire that swept through the whole house. One neighbor told *Boston.com*, “I called 911 in a panic.” Another neighbor banged on the door to wake up the occupants of the house. Firefighters told *WJRT-TV* that they got to the scene late because a nearby fire station had been closed due to budget cuts. The father survived, but all four children were killed.

The U.S. Fire Administration recommends several steps for preventing fires. They say that surviving a fire is not a matter of luck. It can be a matter of planning ahead. They recommend having working smoke alarms, being careful to shut off appliances, and only plugging appliances into outlets when they are being used. Families can also buy cheap home safety sprinklers to use in case of emergency.

Source: “House fires kill at least 11 and relocate 2 dozen in Illinois and Michigan,” *Boston.com*, February 15, 2010.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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59
74

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91
108
122
137
154
168

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180
199
212
226
235

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What are some ways that fires can start in your home?

Why were the firefighters late in getting to the house fire?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

More than 3,500 Americans die in fires / every year. // Many of these fires occur at home, / the place where people feel the safest. // What are the fire hazards in our homes? // Older electrical appliances can cause fires / if their cords become frayed. // If power cords are overloaded, / short circuits can cause fires. // Appliances like curling irons / and space heaters can overheat / and catch fire. // Fires can also start on the stove / or with matches. //

One afternoon, / a man was at home with his child / and was also sitting for three other children. // But he fell asleep while he was cooking, / and the oven started a fire / that swept through the whole house. // One neighbor told Boston.com, / “I called 911 in a panic.” // Another neighbor banged on the door / to wake up the occupants of the house. // Firefighters told WJRT-TV that they got to the scene late / because a nearby fire station had been closed / due to budget cuts. // The father survived, / but all four children were killed. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.