

## **A Fender Bender**

**(Story words: insurance, information, intersection)**

Lisa and Ronaldo were making a special trip to the big Korean grocery store in Silver Spring because they planned to cook a new dish for their friends.

They found a parking spot on the street. It was the first spot after the intersection on Atlanta Avenue, a very busy street.

They got their shopping done quickly and loaded the bags into the hatchback of Ronaldo's new Honda Civic. The car was not brand new, but new to Ronaldo. It was seven years old, with only fifty thousand miles on it, and in very nice shape with no dents or dings.

Ronaldo looked behind him to see that it was clear before pulling out of his parking spot. Just as he pulled out, another car, going fast, hit his front bumper, smashing it, and scraping its own side too. That car had been turning right onto Atlanta Avenue from Park Drive.

Ronaldo was worried that he would be blamed for the accident. He knew that the rules of the road are that cars pulling out of a parking spot must yield to cars already on the road who have the right of way. The problem was that he did not see the car because it had rounded the corner so fast.

It was very lucky that the people in the other car viewed the accident in the same way that he did. Ronaldo explained that he had looked behind him and had not seen any traffic on Atlanta. The man who was driving the other car said, "I should have been going more slowly through my turn. As soon as I turned the corner you were there, and I had no time to stop. I'm really sorry about this."

The man's wife said, "At least, it seems like only the cars are damaged and none of us are hurt? Are you all, ok?"

Ronaldo felt a big sense of relief. No one had been hurt. The other driver was accepting responsibility for turning the corner too fast to see him. When they exchanged their contact information including their insurance information, they found out that they both were insured by the same company. Now, Ronaldo felt an even bigger sense of relief. He knew that his car would be fixed. And,

more importantly, he was not going to have an at-fault accident on his driving record.