**Summary**

Matt is drinking coffee in the Web Café in London's Soho, where he's secretly in love with the Maltese owner's student daughter Kate, who often helps her father Paolo out. Suddenly a brick breaks the window narrowly missing Kate; she asks her father if it was done by ‘those men’.

There’s a message on the brick in Maltese, but Paolo won't tell Matt what it says because he isn’t family. That evening Matt visits Kate in the café and she tells him the message says, ‘Don’t stop now!’ It turns out that two men Paolo knew in Malta arrived eight weeks ago, talked to him and provided him with new computers for his internet café. Then they learn from Paolo that Bob the pizza delivery boy has been talked to by one of the men, and now he’s afraid to work for Paolo.

Kate and Matt deliver the pizzas by motorbike, including a mysterious ‘special’ pizza. Matt opens the box while Kate is delivering one of the other pizzas and finds it contains a small black box. They deliver the ‘special’ pizza, but Kate brings the box back claiming it was cold. When they get back to the Web Café and Matt opens the box, he finds a small black box. Paolo is having an angry argument on the phone when they arrive.

Matt goes to visit Kate the next night at nine, but she’s not there. He talks to Paolo, who tells him about the Vassallo brothers, Antonio and Victor, whose ‘business is money’. They made him put the black box next to the credit card machine at which the Web Café customers pay. Matt says they are stealing the card numbers. Paolo tells him that he tried to stop, but they kept on prolonging the time he had to do it. Finally, when he said he would go to the police, they gave him the Maltese ‘Kiss of Death’, which means that he has to do as they say or someone in his family will die. As they are talking, Antonio brings the motorbike back and says they are keeping Kate until tomorrow.

Matt decides to act. He takes the motorbike and goes to the Vassallos’ office. When Antonio arrives back Matt lays him out. He then gets a gun off Victor when he comes out to investigate and makes him start untying Kate. However, Antonio comes round and knocks Matt out with a chair.

When Matt comes round he is tied up with Kate and the brothers are packing up to leave. They tell them their trick was to copy the cards of foreigners, and then use each one only once to take out $1,000 from their account – but with about 50 cards a day over eight weeks, it is a lot of money. They douse the place with petrol and set it alight, intending to burn the evidence and the witnesses (Kate and Matt). At that moment, Paolo drives Matt’s drinks lorry through the window, knocking down Antonio. He then knocks out Victor with a bottle. They call the police and explain. Paolo gets six weeks in prison. The Vassallo brothers get ten years.

Matt helps Kate at the Web Café while Paolo is in prison, and Paolo tells him to stay when he comes out. The story ends with Paolo saying he’s now family and Kate kissing him.

**Before reading**

1. Student’s own answers. (It means keep on doing something which you have started. Someone might use it to encourage a person learning to swim, for example.)
2. Student’s own answers. (Something dynamic and modern, involving people from different cultures.)
3. Matt, Kate and Kate’s father; In the Web Café in London; The window is broken and there is a strange message: ‘Don’t stop now!’
4. Valletta in Malta
Don’t Stop Now!  Philip Prowse

Check your reading

Chapter 1
1. Matt sitting at a table, Kate behind the counter, a brick with a message attached to it breaking the café window.
2. a, c, d, f
3. a F, b T, c T, d F, e T, f F
4. ‘those men’

Chapter 2
1. c
2. a F, b T, c T, d F, e T, f T
3. The boy who delivers the pizzas. Someone went to see him and now he doesn’t want to work for Paolo.
4. Kate and Matt.
5. Student’s own answer.

Chapter 3
1. a fast, b small, c hungry, d happy, e afraid
2. Student’s own answers.
3. a There is a man in a long black coat.
   b Kate is carrying her crash helmet.
   c Kate is bringing the ‘special’ pizza box from the man.
   d Matt is watching Kate and the man.
   e Kate looks very sad (or afraid).

Chapter 4
1. 1 d, 2 a, 3 c, 4 e, 5 b
2. Use the black box for one more day.
3. To make Paolo do what they want.
4. It’s a Maltese kiss on the forehead which tells someone to do what the other person wants or someone in their family will die.

Chapter 5
1. c, f, a, e, b, d
2. page 22 c, page 24 a, page 25 b (d)
3. Student’s own answer.

Chapter 6
1. d They only use the numbers from foreign tourists’ cards.
   f Their friends only take out $1,000 with each card.
2. To burn the machines and kill Kate and Matt.
3. Because they have ‘Crash!’ and ‘Aaah!’ and ‘That was ...’ to explain what the noises are.
4. a, c, e
5. Paolo says that Matt is part of their family now; at the beginning he said he wasn’t.

After reading
1–9. Student’s own answers.