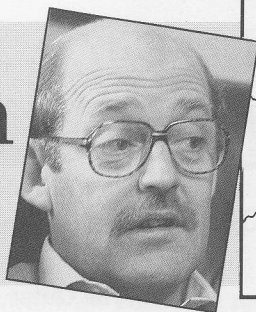


# 7 Dr John Smith in Stornoway

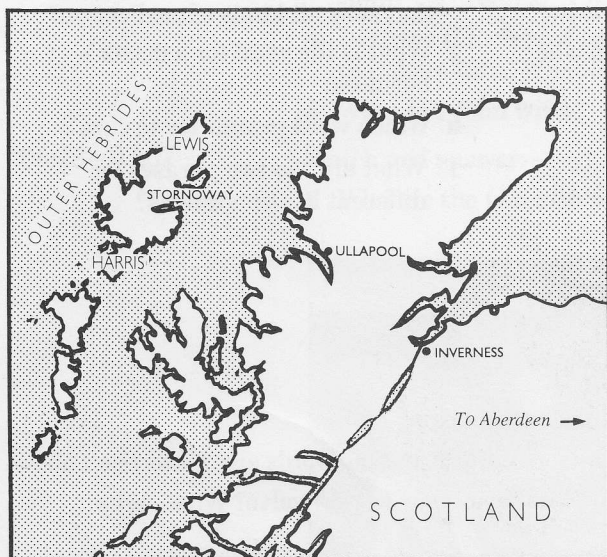


## Before you watch

*In this unit you will be meeting a doctor called John Smith.  
Before you watch the video, read this text about  
the area in which he lives.*

### The place

Off the west coast of Scotland is a group of islands called the Outer Hebrides. They are rugged and almost treeless, because of the buffeting they get from the wind and sea. Their beauty lies in their lakes and moors, their white sands and clear blue seas. The largest of the islands has two names: the Isle of Lewis and Harris. The southern part of the island is called Harris, the northern part Lewis. Stornoway is the main port of Lewis, and it is by far the largest town on the island.

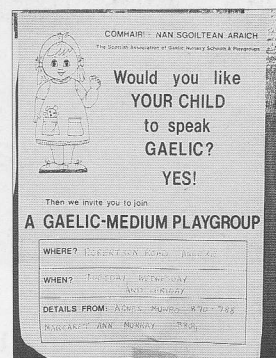


### Tweed

The name of Harris is world-famous because of Harris Tweed, a woollen material which the islanders still weave in their homes. The other main industries are farming and fishing, especially shellfish such as prawns and crabs.

### Gaelic

The Outer Hebrides are in the truly Celtic part of Scotland. The old Celtic language of Scotland is called Gaelic and is related to Irish, Welsh and Breton. It is now spoken by only 80,000 people, yet more than three-quarters of the people of the Outer Hebrides speak Gaelic. Most are bilingual, but a few of the older people speak hardly any English.



*Sign in Stornoway Health Centre*

The old language has had an influence on the English spoken all over Scotland. Gaelic words are used, such as 'loch' for lake.

Gaelic also affects the pronunciation of English in Scotland, and some non-native speakers of English find it easier to understand Scottish people than English people:

- ◆ More simple (pure) vowels are used.
- ◆ In words such as 'fire', 'horse', 'cart', the 'r' is pronounced (and rolled) by Scottish people, whereas most English people do not pronounce the 'r' at all in such words.
- ◆ In the Outer Hebrides, there is another Gaelic influence on pronunciation: 's' is pronounced 'sh' in words like 'nurse', 'years', 'university'.

The word 'Gaelic' is pronounced 'Gaylick' by most English people, 'Gallick' by Scottish people. Oddly, you will hear Chris Serle say it at times in the Scottish way and John Smith in the English way! Presumably each of them was being polite to the other.

# VIDEO Activities

## INTRODUCTION 00:00 – 02:10

Watch the first part of the video and say whether these statements are true or false.

- 1 The Outer Hebrides are in the North Atlantic ocean.
- 2 The population of Stornoway is 24,000.
- 3 John and his wife are both from Lewis.
- 4 They have known each other since they were small children.



## JOHN'S PRACTICE

Before you watch the video, do this exercise.

- 1 You will hear John use all of these words.

*consulting room   private medicine   patient   Health Centre   treat  
General Practitioner (GP)   surgery   prescription   practice   chemist  
specialist   National Health Service (NHS)   tablets   medicine*

See if you can work out what they mean by answering these questions.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>a</b> Find two words for types of doctor. Which one has to know about all areas of medicine? Which one works in just one area of medicine?</p> <p><b>b</b> What is the word for a person who sees a doctor?</p> <p><b>c</b> Find two words that mean a doctor's office.</p> <p><b>d</b> Which word means a clinic for all health matters?</p> <p><b>e</b> What is the word for the form that a doctor fills in to allow a patient to buy medication?</p> | <p><b>f</b> What are the words for: medication in liquid form; medication in a form like small, hard sweets; the person that sells all kinds of medication?</p> <p><b>g</b> What is the word for a doctor's business?</p> <p><b>h</b> Which word means 'try to cure'?</p> <p><b>i</b> What are the two phrases for different health systems?</p> |
|--|--|



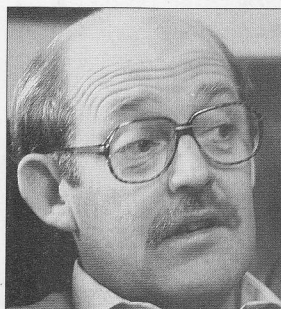
## 02:10 – 03:42

Watch the video, with pauses, and do the task.

- 2 Fill in the gaps in the conversation; all of the missing words are in exercise 1 above.

**Chris** John, you're a doctor but what does your work involve? What sort of doctor are you?

**John** I'm actually a ...(a)... – a GP as we're referred to in this country – or, if you like, a primary health care provider. In other words, when somebody feels – any of my ...(b)... feels – ill, they come to me in the first instance. And I have a look at them and try and decide what's wrong with them. If it's something I can ...(c)... myself, I do so, either by advising them of what to do or giving them a ...(d)... to take to the ...(e)... to get medication – ...(f)... or ...(g)... . Or, if it's something that requires more specialised care, I refer them on to one of my ...(h)... colleagues in the hospital service.





- Chris** How many patients have you got?
- John** Well, actually I'm in a group ...(i)... of three – there are three of us – and we have about 3,700 patients.
- Chris** Are they, most of them, ...(j)... patients?
- John** They are all exclusively National Health Service patients. We don't do any ...(k)... in this part of the country.
- Chris** Do you work from here at home, or do you have a ...(l)... somewhere?
- John** No, I work from the ...(m)... in Stornoway. That's my main base.
- Chris** And that's where all your patients come?
- John** That's where all my patients come, the ones that want to see me in the ...(n)... .

**AT THE HEALTH CENTRE**  
03:42–06:28

Watch the scene at the Health Centre and do this task.

- 1 Put up your hand when you see:
  - a receptionist
  - a second receptionist
  - a doctor (other than John)
  - Miss Smith
  - a patient other than Miss Smith

03:42–06:28

Now watch again and answer these questions.

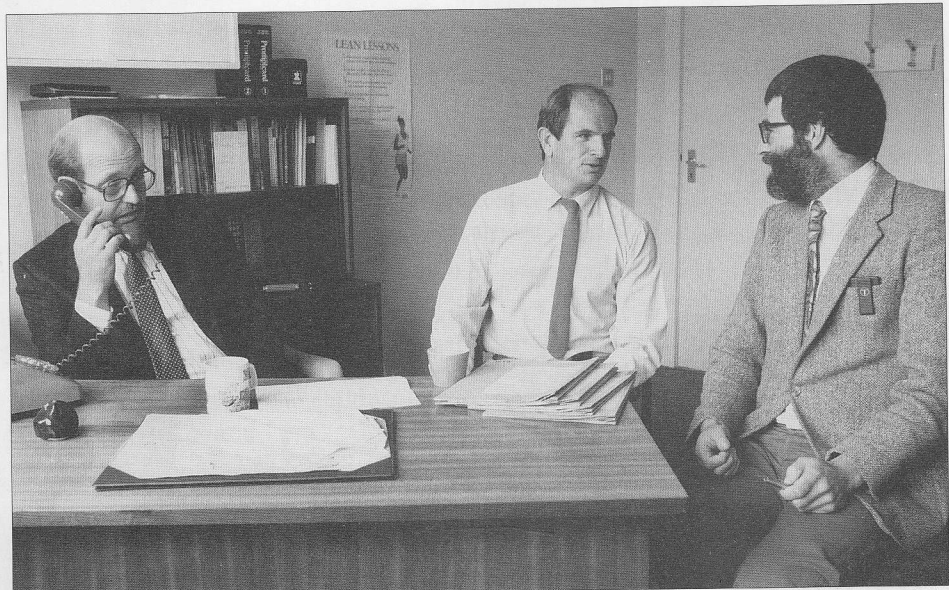
- 2 What shows that a doctor is ready to see a patient?
- 3 Why has Miss Smith come to see John?
- 4 Describe the piece of apparatus that John uses. What is it used for?
- 5 What did John write?



06:28–07:07

Watch and answer:

- 6 Who are the two men with John?
- 7 Why do the three of them meet together?



## THE ISLAND 07:07–09:52

Watch and answer:

- 1 What is the main difference between being a doctor on the island and on the mainland?
- 2 On which day are there no ferries? Why?
- 3 What is unusual about the street name and the Post Office signs (09:13–09:17)?
- 4 How has the fishing industry changed?



## AIR–SEA RESCUE

In the next part of the video we see an air–sea rescue. The main characters in the drama are:

- Dr Ian Lawson, who is dressed in black and carries a small case
- a sick fisherman
- a member of the helicopter crew called the winchman (a man who is lowered in a harness by a machine called a winch).



09:52–13:33

Watch the rescue twice. The second time you watch, make a note of everything that happens. Then describe everything you saw, starting like this:

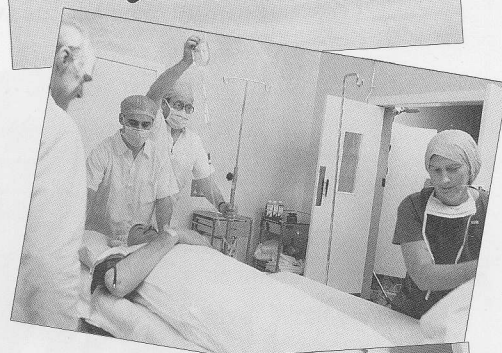
'Dr Lawson got into the helicopter at the airfield. The helicopter flew ...'



13:17–14:46

Watch and answer:

- 1 Who is the man in the operating theatre that speaks first?
- 2 What is John's role in the operation?



## HOME VISIT 14:46–16:02

Watch the video and say whether these statements are true or false.

- 1 John drives 35,000 miles a year. ☐
- 2 All of his patients live in Stornoway. ☐
- 3 He does 25% of his work in Gaelic. ☐
- 4 The younger people prefer to speak Gaelic. ☐
- 5 Mrs Macrae's mother has a pain in her leg. ☐





We next see John examining Mrs Macrae's mother, 96-year-old Mrs McLeod. Their conversation is in Gaelic, with English sub-titles.

16:02–17:08

Watch the scene twice with the bottom half of the screen covered. The first time you watch, answer these questions.

- 6 Does the language sound like English?
- 7 Which one word of English is used? Why?



16:02–17:08

Watch again, with pauses, and try to guess what the sub-titles will be.

16:02–17:08

Now watch with the screen uncovered, to see how well you guessed the sub-titles.

LEISURE

17:08–17:54

Watch and answer:

- 1 Does Muriel like the bagpipes? Do you?
- 2 What does Muriel do some evenings?

17:54–18:53

Watch the scene first **without sound** and answer these questions.

- 3 What is the situation?
- 4 Who is the man in glasses? What might he be saying?
- 5 Why does the other man go out and come in again?

17:54–18:53

Now watch **with sound** and see if you guessed correctly what the scene was about.



### Written work

*Write the next few lines of the play.*  
**or**

*Write a short story which ends:*  
*She opened the door and he said,*  
*'The lifeboat . . . the lifeboat's*  
*gone down.'*

18:53–20:43

Watch and answer:

- 6 What details of the Smith children did you catch?

20:43–22:33

Watch and answer:

- 8 What are the children wearing?
- 9 Name one thing that the children like about the island.
- 10 Which three 'amenities' – good features of the island – does John like?

- 7 Does Muriel enjoy sailing? Why does she go sailing?



### DISCUSSION

What would be the good and the bad things about

- a holiday on the Isle of Harris and Lewis?
- living there?