

BJ: (Something) I wanna talk about very quickly is...have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
ME: Pittsburghese?
BJ: Pittsburghese.
ME: Yes. That is...what they say that Pittsburghers use different words than the rest of the world does. ((Laughs))
BJ: ((Laughs))
ME: And there's actually a book out that I had bought for my oldest sister on that=
BJ: =Uh-huh=
ME: =What we call "gumbands" instead of "rubber bands" and...
BJ: Uh-huh. [So]
ME: [Pop] and soda and [(laughs)] yes.
BJ: [Mm-hmm] And this little book is...is that...that little black-and-gold book [called *How to Speak Like a P*-?
ME: [Mm-hmm]
BJ: Yeah.
ME: Yes.
BJ: Have you ever seen the...any other things with Pittsburghese?
ME: No.
BJ: Written on them? Yeah, sometimes if you go down to the Strip or...Station Square they'll have T-shirts and=
ME: =(Yeah)=
BJ: =Coffee mugs and=
ME: I've only been to Station Square once. That was because my sister-in-law was having her bridal shower there.
BJ: =Mm-hmm=
ME: =Or not her bridal shower, her bachelorette party there.
BJ: Mm-hmm
ME: That was an experience. That was on Halloween ((laughing))
BJ: ((Laughing))
ME: And all these people were running around with these masks. My husband's like "Why did you do that?" I'm like "What choice did I have?" ((Laughs))
BJ: ((Laughing)) [Uh-huh.]
ME: [Yeah.]
BJ: [Yeah] well...they do have other things with Pittsburghese on them [so you]
ME: [Mm-hmm]
BJ: So it's words that Pittsburghers are supposedly use that other people don't use. Do people out here use any of those words? Um=
ME: =()=
BJ: =Like "gum band?"
ME: "Gum band" I will hear.
BJ: Mm-hmm.

ME: But not really. Some people will call “soda,” instead of “pop,” () so I guess it’s more...the other way around?

BJ: Uh-huh? Uh-huh? So what’re some o’ the other can you think of...any of the others?

ME: Pittsburghese that I [know?]

BJ: [Yeah]

ME: Creek, CRICK, ROOT, route.

BJ: Which do you say...out here?

ME: ROOT 19.

BJ: ROOT 19. And what about

ME: ROOT 19.

BJ: And what about?

ME: I say “creek.” Only because I don’t wanna say CRICK. ((laughing))

BJ: ((Laughing))

ME: I I purposefully [do that where my sister will]

BJ: [Mm-hmm]

ME: Call it a CRICK. [Um]

BJ: [Most people(‘ll)] call it a crick around here.

ME: Yeah, most people do. I...[specifically]

BJ: [Mm-hmm]

ME: Say “creek.” [Um]

BJ: [Mm-hmm]

ME: WARSH? Instead of “wash.”

BJ: Mm-hmm ((laughs))

ME: Ummm...

BJ: Yeah...I mean this isn’t a test I’m just sorta curious

ME: ((Laughing))

BJ: Yeah. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. So you hear, you hear people use some of these things[() around here?]

ME: [I hear the] the locals that have been here forever say those things, the ones that come in from Cranberry usually vary, you don’t hear=

BJ: =Yeah. Uh-huh.=

ME: =Them say that.

BJ: Mm-hmm. So would you say you...use any of those ((1-second pause)) words, ever, or did?

ME: Oh I’ll say “gum band.”

BJ: Mm-hmm

ME: I’ll say “slippy” and not “slippery.”

BJ: Mm-[hmm]

ME: [Yeah] I will say some of those, but the “creek” I definitely watch ((laughing)).

BJ: ((Laughing)) Right. Uh-huh.

ME: And it is “pop,” we don’t call it “soda.”=

BJ: =Right. Well that’s, I mean I’m from central Pennsylvania and it’s “pop” there too. So that’s what I say.

ME: Yeah.

BJ: What I try to say, actually. Uh, what about “you-unz” or “yinz” or...whatever? Do people...[around here say that?]
ME: [People will say that.] I don’t [say that.]
BJ: [Mm-hmm]
ME: My family doesn’t say that. I’ve heard that, “YOU-INZ.”
BJ: Mm-hmm. Did kids in school...say that? Did [teachers ever become kind of...yeah]
ME: [Not that I really remember.] I can’t say I’ve really listened [for that.]
BJ: [Mm-hmm.] Do you ever remember teachers in school ((1-second pause)) correcting people’s speech? Now I mean I don’t mean their pronunciations... like...you know the speech therapy [type, but] I mean correcting people’s grammar, saying that’s
ME: [No.]
BJ: Bad grammar, that’s...[don’t say]
ME: [No.]
BJ: “You-inz” or whatever?
ME: No, they never did.
BJ: They never did?
ME: Not even in speech class. He was more interested in having us get all our little parts of our speech ((laughing)) together than the actual=
BJ: =[Right.]
ME: [Pronunciations] or [saying]
BJ: [Mm-hmm]
ME: Not adding any...[()]
BJ: So [it () wasn’t really] an issue?
ME: No.
BJ: Mm-hmm. Uh, have you ever heard the term a...a “yinzer?”
ME: [A what?]
BJ: [For a person?] A “yinzer” for a person?
ME: No.
BJ: (That’s a)...some kids in...in Pittsburgh call other kids “yinzers.”
ME: How do [you spell that?]
BJ: [And we—] Y-I-N-Z-E-R? What it means is a...person who has, who sounds...a lot like a Pittsburgher, and does real Pittsburgh-ey things, like [(they) know]
ME: [()]
BJ: Is a Steelers fan, that kind of thing.
ME: Uh-huh.
BJ: It’s from “you-inz.”
ME: Hmm.
BJ: And sometimes it’s not a very nice thing to say.
ME: ((Laughs))
BJ: ((Laughs))
ME: ((Laughing)) Doesn’t sound like it would [be.]
BJ: [Yeah.] ((laughing)) It’s one of these things kids have you know, to label other groups of kids, you know.

ME: [Mm-hmm.]

BJ: [Like]...what you were talking about before? Uh-huh ((1-second pause)) so, have you ever (heard)...had...you've heard people say "you-inz" and... um... what about "yinz guys"?

ME: Eric will say that.

BJ: Yeah?

ME: Yeah, Eric will. I don't know what he gets that at, but...

BJ: Hmm. That's interesting uh-huh. So when people uh...if somebody if you had extra food...can you imagine yourself saying something like, "These leftovers need eatin'"? Or ((1-second pause)) would you...want prefer to say something like "These leftovers need eating," or some other...kind of expression? ((4-second pause)) Or if the car was dirty would...you know would...somebody say the car

ME: "Car needs [WARSHED," is what it] would come out. ((Laughing))

BJ: [Yeah...yeah that's]...that's that's the way it would come out? [Okay uh-huh yeah]

ME: [That's the way] it would come out but the leftovers...leftovers=

BJ: "Need eatin'?"

ME: [Need eatin'.] Eatin'?

BJ: Eatin'. Yeah, it's...

ME: Although, my in-laws, and I thought this was weird, they pronounce their "G"s. Like, it's not a "hanger," it's a "HANG-GER."

BJ: I've heard that. I've heard that. Or people talk about "GOING-G out."

ME: [Yeah.]

BJ: [Instead of going out, yeah.]

ME: They pronounce their "G"s and I never heard that before I met them. In fact, the first day I was in, they said something about a "HANG-GER" I...() [say anything.]

BJ: [Where do they come from?] What what's ()

ME: Um, my father-in-law...grew up in Eastvale, which is...very close to () it's like, like one step over the line, Beaver Falls, and um...my mother-in-law came from ((2-second pause)) I do know, it just left me...Waynesburg.

BJ: Mm-hmm. [Hmm]

ME: She came from there, [from] a very Italian family, first generation...Italian.

BJ: I'm won – I wonder if it's Italian Americans who do that... "GOING-G OUT" thing or "HANG-GER" thing.

ME: ()

BJ: Do you think it's more her that does it or?

ME: It is her that says it.

BJ: Well see th- this is my...hypothesis, I have to find out whether this is true or not.

ME: ((Laughing))

BJ: but I think a lot of people who are Italian ancestry do that.

ME: Yeah. It is her. She she's always [said that.]

BJ: [Mm-hmmm]

ME: It's the "G-HER," and I just...I never thought...I thought it was odd, but I [wouldn't say] anything to her ((laughing)).

BJ: [Mm-hmm?] What about uh "rid up" or "redd up?" Do you say, do [you...use that?]

ME: [I "clean] up."

BJ: Yeah.

ME: My Mom would "redd up."

BJ: Your Mom would "redd up."

ME: My Mom would "redd up." But I "clean up."

BJ: ((Laughs))

ME: ((Laughing))

BJ: What about your sisters, what would they...which would they do?

ME: My oldest...sister, I don't think believes in "redding up."

BJ: ((Laughs))

ME: ((Laughing)) Umm...Terry...is a "redder."

BJ: Mm-hmm.

ME: She'll "redd up" the house. Becky...she doesn't really...[say]

BJ: [Yeah.] She doesn't really say. Uh what uh...do you know what a "grinney" is?

ME: "Grinney" [is] like a chipmunk.

BJ: [Mm-hmm] Hmm. Yeah, that's right, (). ((Laughing)) I mean nobody in Pittsburgh knows [that. It's]

ME: [Yeah]

BJ: It's more of a rural=

ME: =Rural=

BJ: =Word, a [country word around here.]

ME: [We call them chipmunks though], but my sister will call 'em a "grinney."

BJ: Mm-hmm? [Mm-hmm?]

ME: [Yeah ()] chipmunks.=

BJ: =What about...when people say "anat" at the end of a sentence?

ME: A what?

BJ: "Anat"? For "and that" at the end of a sentence? [That's one of those]

ME: [I don't pick that up.]

BJ: Yeah, that's one of those things that you find in those Pitts- Pittsburghese booklets.

ME: Mm-hmm.

BJ: But I wonder if you'd ever...[noticed it.]

ME: [I don't think I would have] picked up a difference in that...[in that] or "that."

BJ: [Mm-hmm.] Yeah. Mm-hmm. What about PICKSBURGH, when people say "Picksburgh" instead of "Pittsburgh?" () ever heard anyone say that?

ME: ()

BJ: Mm-hmm

ME: It's always ["Pittsburgh."]

BJ: [Yeah.] Okay, [thanks]

ME: [Like I said], some of those I might not hear. I might get the first part and know what they're saying and not...[pick]

BJ: [Yeah]

ME: Worry about it any further than [that ((laughing)).]

BJ: [Right.] Uh-huh. Okay, well those are (the)...all the sort of that's the all the questions I wanted to ask. I wonder if you would be willing to...um do a little reading aloud, just a...[couple of little] passages?

ME: [Sure.] Why not?

BJ: I'd appreciate it. Uh—