

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	So would- Have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	LF	Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) ((Laughs))
3	BJ	((Laughs)) What do you think it is? How would you describe it?
4	LF	((Laughs)) Um... ((3 second pause)) I- I- The word that comes to mind is "flat." That it sort of...flattens out sounds.
5	BJ	Mm-hmm.
6	LF	Um... I know what it sounds like because, um- ((Laughs)) It was always a joke with- when- after my son was born, I told him...first time- if our son ever says "YINZ," we're leaving [Pittsburgh]. I'm not going to have him using that. ((Laughs)) Um... ((3 second pause)) Yeah, [uh...]
7	BJ	[((Laughs))] [So] you're- you're- It's an accent?
8	LF	It's an accent, yeah.
9	BJ	Mostly. But "YINZ" is a word. So it's a- it's like [words, and...]
10	LF	[Right. It's-] it's a dialect and an [accent. Yeah.]
11	BJ	[Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.] ((1 second pause)) Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) So, besides "YINZ" what are some other...?
12	LF	((2 second pause)) Oh...
13	BJ	Can you think of any other words, or expressions, or...[sounds, or whatever?]
14	LF	[Expressions. Um...] Well, the sounds, definitely. The, um...like the "DAHNTOWN."
15	BJ	Mm-hmm.
16	LF	That sort of flattening of the..."OW"-sound is...[pretty] typical. Um... ((3 second pause)) Um, cutting off...parts of...consonants on words.
17	BJ	[Right.] Yeah.
18	LF	Like saying, um ((3 second pause)) you know, "Let's go...let's go meet Mary and 'EM."
19	BJ	Mm-hmm.
20	LF	You know, instead of ["them," they'll] take- take the... ((2 second pause)) Um...I worked with a woman you had a pretty heavy, uh, Pittsburgh accent and she would say "THAT THERE" a lot, and I don't know if that was a Pittsburgh thing, or just her own [thing], but... "Like THAT THERE," instead of just saying, "Like that."
21	BJ	["Them." Um- Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Huh. Hmm. Mm-hmm.
22	LF	"Like THAT THERE." ((Laughs))
23	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((Laughs)) Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) So how do you- So, obviously, you know some people who talk this way, have- Are there- ((Coughs)) Have you ever ((Coughs)) learned anything about Pittsburghese any other way? Besides just listening

		to people?
24	LF	((2 second pause)) Hmm...
25	BJ	((Coughs)) Like, have you ever seen anybody- Is it- Have you ever heard anybody talk about it, or [have] you ever read about it, or...?
26	LF	[I-] I think I have. Sometimes it's parodied, sometimes, locally.
27	BJ	Mm-hmm.
28	LF	Um, I think, when...I used to listen to more commercial radio, sometimes the...the morning shows they would do characters who had real...
29	BJ	Right.
30	LF	Pronounced...
31	BJ	Mm-hmm.
32	LF	Pittsburgh accents as a way to parody it. [Um...] I don't think I've ever read anything...
33	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Have you ever seen a T-shirt or anything with Pittsburghese on it?
34	LF	Yeah.
35	BJ	Uh-huh.
36	LF	Mostly related to the Steelers, I think. Um...
37	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Yeah... I mean, "STILLERS" [is always one of the words that's on- that's on there. Mm-hmm. But] they do. Yeah. Sometimes they have, uh, whole lists of...uh, like it will be almost be like a little dictionary on a...on a T-shirt.
38	LF	["STILLERS." Exactly. ((Laughs)) There's another one. Yeah, the "STILLERS."] Oh, no. I haven't [seen those.]
39	BJ	[They sell-] Look at- You know, in the Strip they're at- they're- I always have...
40	LF	Yeah.
41	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Always found them in the Strip, everytime. ((1 second pause)) What about a little book, booklet, called <i>How to Speak Like a Pittsburgher</i> ? Have you ever seen [that?]
42	LF	[No I-] I haven't seen that. ((Laughs))
43	BJ	It's been around ((Laughs)) for a long time. ((Coughs)) Most people have seen it. It's kind of...interesting... ((Swallows)) you know, that a book like that would be in print for so long.
44	LF	Right.
45	BJ	Yeah. Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) Um, but you wouldn't...think that you've picked any of this up?
46	LF	I don't think so.
47	BJ	Mm-hmm.
48	LF	I mean, I don't hear it. But, um... My mother-in-law has a very... mild version of it, and once in awhile I hear it in my ((Telephone rings)) husband's speech, which is very mildly and on certain [words]. And I usually tease him about it ((Laughs)) [when] I hear it.

49	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm. ((Laughs))] So, do you think your son will grow up with a local accent?
50	LF	((Intake of breath)) ((Sighs)) I don't think so. I haven't...
51	BJ	((2 second pause)) Haven't noticed it yet? =
52	LF	Haven't heard it from him. And he isn't around... a lot of people who have a real pronounced... Pittsburgh accent.
53	BJ	Mm-hmm.
54	LF	Um, like I said, some of his relatives have sort of mild versions of it.
55	BJ	Mm-hmm.
56	LF	Um, but nothing real pronounced =
57	BJ	=What about his peer group? I mean...?
58	LF	They don't seem to. It's- it's strange, but [they] really don't.
59	BJ	[Uh-huh.] It'd be interesting to see. I mean, you know.
60	LF	And some of them are not... their parents are not... from Pittsburgh.
61	BJ	Right.
62	LF	You know, a couple of his closer friends, the parents aren't, so then the children probably don't...
63	BJ	Mm-hmm.
64	LF	Don't pick it up, from [the parents.]
65	BJ	[Does he] get along with Emma?
66	LF	((Laughs)) He gets along with her. They... they tend to bring out the wild in each other. ((Laughs))
67	BJ	((Laughs)) She's pretty strong-willed.
68	LF	She is. And she's- And they're both big kids. You [know], Emma's very tall for her age [and] so is Dylan, and so they... they can be a handful [together]. But he was actually telling me last night that he was going to marry her... so... ((Laughs))
69	BJ	[Yeah.] [Mm-hmm.] [((Laughs))] Oh, really. ((Laughs))
70	LF	He's got it all figured out.
71	BJ	((Laughing)) Oh, G-!
72	LF	I said, Does Emma know this? And he said, I think so.
73	BJ	Well, he probably has to ask... Emma's... dad, you [know, for] permission.
74	LF	[That's right.] If you want to be... proper about it. ((Laughs))
75	BJ	Yeah. ((Laughs)) Have you ever heard the term "YINZER"?
76	LF	Mm-hmm.
77	BJ	What is- What does that call to mind... [to you?]
78	LF	[To me] a "YINZER" is a person who has a Pittsburgh accent.
79	BJ	That's it?
80	LF	Yeah.
81	BJ	Mm-hmm.
82	LF	Or who speaks with... with those terms. That's what I- I've even used that term.
83	BJ	Mm-hmm.

84	LF	In talking about somebody who has that kind [of accent.]
85	BJ	[So anyone] who would have that kind of accent. [Yeah.] Mm-hmm. ((Papers shuffling)) So you wouldn't think it was necessarily a compliment to call somebody that, or an insult to call somebody that, [or...?]
86	LF	[Mm-hmm.] [Um...] In my mind, it's not a compliment, um, because- I- It's probably unfair, but when I hear someone who has a very thick Pittsburgh accent I tend to think of them as maybe less educated.
87	BJ	((1 second pause)) Mm-hmm.
88	LF	Um, so it's not a compliment. But I wouldn't say it's an insult, either. I wouldn't be trying to...
89	BJ	Mm-hmm.
90	LF	Denigrate someone. I guess.
91	BJ	Yeah. ((Papers shuffling)) ((Intake of breath)) Um... How do you- How do you think you learned that word?
92	LF	Probably from my husband.
93	BJ	Yeah.
94	LF	Since he grew up in the area.
95	BJ	Mm-hmm.
96	LF	And before we even moved here he would...um, who was it, like, Dan Marino, if we'd...hear him interviewed on television he would say see that- that's a Pittsburgh accent, that's [what ()]
97	BJ	[Yeah, I] noticed that during the Super Bowl. ((Papers shuffling)) I mean, he was=
98	LF	=He still has [it? Yeah. ((Laughs))]
99	BJ	[Yeah. Oh, yeah.] Well, people don't lose their accents when they're ((Intake of breath)) you know, after they're adults.
100	LF	Right. [Well...]
101	BJ	[I mean,] there's certain things they could...minimize if they were really...aware of them, and...
102	LF	Right.
103	BJ	If they really raised red-flags. But most of the stuff doesn't raise a red-flag at all. It's just...[the] way you talk, you know. Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) Um... ((2 second pause)) So you've heard... you've heard the term "YINZER." You've also heard people who say... People use the term "YINZ"?
104	LF	[Right.] Mm-hmm.
105	BJ	What- What does it mean?
106	LF	It means, uh, "you guys," or "you people."
107	BJ	Uh-huh. So you'd say "you guys" instead, if you were...?
108	LF	I would. [Yeah], probably.
109	BJ	[Yeah.] Uh-huh. There isn't a form like that in...Montana?
110	LF	((2 second pause)) I don't think so.
111	BJ	They ever say "y'all" in Montana?

112	LF	No... No. Although my friend that I- the one I mentioned [before] that- that we grew up together, she claims there's a Montana accent and she can hear it when I speak. I think she nuts, but... ((Laughs))
113	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] ((Laughs)) Mm-hmm.
114	LF	She claims there is such thing as a Montana accent, and I don't know what it is.
115	BJ	I don't know. I mean... I....
116	LF	((Laughs))
117	BJ	I wouldn't be surprised. I mean, you know, everybody has an accent of some [kind]. You got to pronounce things some way, um...
118	LF	[Right.] But I mean I can't imagine meeting a stranger on the street and hearing them speak and thinking, Oh, you must be from Montana.
119	BJ	Oh?
120	LF	I just- That wouldn't occur to me.
121	BJ	Whereas people from Pittsburgh do do that.
122	LF	Yes.
123	BJ	You just- As you just said. Yeah.
124	LF	Right.
125	BJ	Uh-huh. Yeah. That's interesting. So there's this kind of layer of local identity that...
126	LF	Right.
127	BJ	That they don't have some places.
128	LF	Yeah.
129	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Um... What about "REDD UP"? Have you ever heard anybody say "[REDD] UP"?
130	LF	[Yes.] I've heard that one. To clean up, [or] to straighten up.
131	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Who did you- Who [uses that?]
132	LF	[My husband] again. [He's] sort of...gave me a primer on it, I [think], before we...moved out here, I think. Because some of his relatives do use terms like that and he was just sort of preparing me for, [um...] "GUMBANDS" was the other one. Although I've never really heard anyone say that. I think that's sort [of] an old- older school...Pittsburgh term.
133	BJ	[Yeah.] [Yeah?] [Uh-huh.] [Mm-hmm.] Uh, I don't know. I mean, how often do people talk about "GUMBANDS" anyway?
134	LF	Right. ((Laughs))
135	BJ	I mean, it [just doesn't really come up]. ((Laughs))
136	LF	((Laughing)) [That's true, they don't come up] in conversation.
137	BJ	((2 second pause)) Uh, what about a "GRINNY? Have you ever heard of a "GRINNY"?
138	LF	No?
139	BJ	That's a- it's an old word for a chipmunk.
140	LF	Oh, no, I've never heard [that one.]
141	BJ	[It's actually] more of a rural word. I was just...curious about how

		many people from the city it-...had actually heard [it], so I put it on my list. But almost none.
142	LF	[Hmm.] No.
143	BJ	Um... What about if people say...“The lawn needs mowed,” or “The leftovers need eating,” or...?
144	LF	Right.
145	BJ	Was that- Does that sound familiar to you when you...? Or did you first hear it...here?
146	LF	((4 second pause)) I want to say I first heard it here but I don't think it's ((2 second paused)) specific to Pittsburgh. I bet there are other places that- [that] use that.
147	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Yeah.
148	LF	And, actually, that might be one that I have picked up, now that I think about it.
149	BJ	Mm-hmm.
150	LF	I think I do say that from time to time.
151	BJ	Mm-hmm.
152	LF	Even though it- it wasn't something I would have...said before.
153	BJ	Yeah. ((1 second pause)) [Mm-hmm.]
154	LF	[Yeah.]
155	BJ	And, uh, What about “N' AT”? I- I didn't mention that one before. [Yeah...]
156	LF	[Yeah,] cutting off the “T,” “H's” off of- [of-] of words. Yeah, [I've] noticed that one.
157	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Or also, uh, using it as sort of a synonym for “ <i>et cetera</i> ,” or... “[and] stuff like that.”
158	LF	[Yes.] Mm-hmm.
159	BJ	You've heard people do that, or...?
160	LF	Yes I have.
161	BJ	Mm-hmm.