

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	So you've, uh...certainly heard of Pittsburghese, right?
2	MF	Mm-hmm.
3	BJ	What would you say it was? You've...alluded to it before.
4	MF	What would I say it is? [Pittsburghese?]
5	BJ	[What-] what's Pittsburghese?
6	MF	I think it's just the local, you know...slang, or, [what] is it, colloquialisms, or... Is that the [right] word? [I dunno]know.
7	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Uh-huh.] [That's a-] That's a...good word. Yeah. Mm-hmm.
8	MF	Um. But ((3 second pause)) I used to think that it was...you know, specific to Pittsburgh. ((2 second pause)) But in Northern Ireland ((Laughs)) they have the same thing. They have the same, you know, the mugs with, you know, the Northern Ireland.
9	BJ	Yeah.
10	MF	And, um, instead of saying Northern Ireland they say "NORN IREN."
11	BJ	((Laughing)) Mm-hmm.
12	MF	You know. Um. Whereas, you know, here instead of "Giant"-saying "Giant Eagle," you have...
13	BJ	"Giant [IGGLE.]"
14	MF	["IGGLE.]" "Giant IGGLE," and "SOUTH SIDE," and...
15	BJ	Mm-hmm.
16	MF	So I- If I- When I hear myself on tape, I think, [oh my] god, you really do have a Pittsburgh accent.
17	BJ	(((Coughs))) Hmm.
18	MF	But other people don't tell me that I have a Pittsburgh accent. And I don't say...um, "YINZ," and... Uh, I work with a few people that...definitely have Pittsburgh accents, but...
19	BJ	Mm-hmm.
20	MF	And I <u>hated</u> them by the time I finished college. I could not wait to get out of Pittsburgh. ((2 second pause)) Which is- I remember sitting on the 61B going into Duquense thinking, Unh, pretty soon I'm not going to have to look at all you people.
21	BJ	((Laughs))
22	MF	((Laughing)) Meanwhile they're probably looking at me thinking the same thing.
23	BJ	((Laughs))
24	MF	Uh, then I realize now that was just my... I think ((2 second pause)) a lot of kids when there in- [finishing college they're just] ready to get out from wherever they are.
25	BJ	[Sure. I know. Uh-huh.] Mm-hmm.

26	MF	And leave.
27	BJ	Yeah. I mean, I certainly was. I couldn't wait to get out of State College, I mean...
28	MF	Yeah.
29	BJ	(Wow), did that ever seem like the...the provincial nowhere-ville, [you know], and...now I go back and I realize it's absolutely beautiful [around] there, but... ((Intake of breath)) [Who- You know, you don't] care about that when you're eighteen, [you] know. ((Intake of breath)) Um.
30	MF	[Well that-] [Yeah.] [You- you can't let that-] [No.] Yeah. One of Brendan's friends that he was friends with all th- all through grade school and- and into high school, and we've stayed...very close with him. Mickey. He's up in, uh, Allegheny at Meadville.
31	BJ	Mm-hmm.
32	MF	So, he should of graduated in the spring. He had to do, I don't know, two more courses this- this semester, and he's just...devastated. And I said, Mickey, you're in the majority. You know, the minority of kids finish in four years anymore. ((Intake of breath)) Um, but he- We had dinner with him the other night, he was home for Thanksgiving, and he just said, Oh, I am- I only have seventeen days left and I don't think I can go back, I don't think I can do it for seventeen more days. He just is so ready to leave.
33	BJ	So, where does he want to go?
34	MF	Here. He's coming home.
35	BJ	He comes back?
36	MF	Yeah.=
37	BJ	=Wants to come back? Huh. Mm-hmm.
38	MF	Yeah. He's coming back to Pittsburgh.
39	BJ	((Coughs)) When you said that you saw...you know, mugs and things with that ((3 second pause)) [the dialect stuff] in Northern Ireland, are you- are you saying it's just the sort of the same phenomenon, or is it the actual same words and same spellings?
40	MF	[The slang in-] No, I think it's the same phenomenon. It's just- There was- There's actually this- You probably know about this website about, um...uh, one of the other rowers has her, um, her background's in- in library science [so] she's really into words and things like that and...um, you know, we'd- ((Laughs)) We get the Merriam-Webster word-of-the-day and then we try to send each other sentences using, [you] know, the whole week's worth of words. ((Intake of breath)) And there was this website and it- it said things like, um, What- what is your plural for "you"?
41	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Uh-huh.] Mm-hmm.
42	MF	Like what- what do you- 'cause there's no plural in the English language [for "you"], right. And- and you could...um...pick which one [and] then you could look at a map and it would lock- there were little dots on the map where you could see [the] different

		pockets in the U.S. that would use that term. And one was for “you,” and one was, What do you call the- the side of the road on a highway?, and...
43	BJ	[Right. Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Yeah. Uh-huh.
44	MF	What would you call a, um...a day that where it wasn't really raining, it was just sort of misting, and...?
45	BJ	Mm-hmm.
46	MF	You know, they- they didn't really tell you the words, but, anyhow, that was pretty neat, [but I...] But then I realized, you know, I just thought, well, everybody has there own...little ways of saying things.
47	BJ	[[Coughs]] Mm-hmm.
48	MF	But...=
49	BJ	=So, was “YINZ” on that list of...[possible ways to say plurals in...? Hmm. Well, it's not actually-] It's not actually...exclusive to Pittsburgh, as you say.
50	MF	[Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, it was.] Yeah.
51	BJ	I mean that particular word you can hear people say all the way down the Appalachian mountains. ((Intake of breath)) [But Pittsburghers have this-]
52	MF	[Yeah, I think- I think] there's a lot of Southern stuff in Pittsburgh, but then I think there's a lot of German stuff to from what I've... Well, there was German out in Wainsborough ['cause] it- people were still saying, “Out in the light”...[or] Dutch, whatever that was.
53	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Uh-] Dutch, yeah...which is [Pennsylvania] German.
54	MF	[Yeah.] Yeah.
55	BJ	Well, actually, it turns- uh, if you...look at some of these Northern-Northern Ireland, in particular, kind of representations of the way they talk, some- some of the- you see, actually, some of the same words. ((Intake of breath)) And that's because the local accent is very heavily influenced by the original settlers [who] are from Northern Ireland. ((2 second pause)) So they say things like, “SLIPPY”...
56	MF	[Huh.] Yeah.
57	BJ	And “REDD UP,” and, you know, it's all these [things that-]
58	MF	[Oh, yeah,] that's right, I never thought about that.
59	BJ	Yeah.
60	MF	Well, I was in college- ((Laughs)) This is so embarrassing and this is going to be on the tape. ((Intake of breath)) My roommate said, You know, that isn't proper English. I said, What? And she said, You- you said your “shirt needs ironed.” I'm like, Well, it does.
61	BJ	((Laughs))
62	MF	She said, Well, it either “needs ironing,” or it “needs to be ironed.” And it never occurred to me... I had never been corrected [all] the way through school even though we stuttered- studied grammar and everything else that...

63	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
64	MF	And that's a Pittsburgh thing. ((1 second pause)) I- I think.
65	BJ	That's also a Northern Ireland thing.=
66	MF	=Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Oh, they say it in Ireland all the [time], even in the South. And my mom would also say things- Well, my mom and dad still say "ye"...you know, for plural [you.]
67	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Yeah,] mm-hmm.
68	MF	Um. ((Sniffs)) ((2 second pause)) And my dad will say things like, "He don't."
69	BJ	Mm-hmm.
70	MF	And I just...chalked that up to, you know, well, he never really went to school for English.
71	BJ	Mm-hmm.
72	MF	Um... And what's the other one they say?
73	BJ	((Coughs))
74	MF	((4 second pause)) Both- They would say "needs ironed," or "needs [this,]" or "needs that." And then my...family back in Ireland say the same thing.
75	BJ	[Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
76	MF	You know, so.
77	BJ	Yeah, well most people still, now, uh, don't- don't realize that there's anything...unusual about that.
78	MF	((1 second pause)) Yeah. Oh, [yeah, when I was-]
79	BJ	[But then once] somebody tells them then all of a sudden, you know, people get this...they turn into little English teacher tyrants, [you] know, about this, like... ((Intake of breath)) When you actually think about the- logically there's, you know...what would be the- what- why would it be more or less logical then doing it some other way?
80	MF	(((Laughs))) Yeah.
81	BJ	Why would "needs ironed" be less logical than "needs ironing," I mean? ((Intake of breath)) But there- it's- it gets very loaded. As soon as people are aware of it, they...attach all these social meanings to it. ((Clears throat)) Um... So, uh... ((2 second pause)) Have you ever seen any...? I mean, well, I guess you have, you've talked about coffee mugs. What else have you seen that had Pittsburgh... <u>ese</u> on it?
82	MF	Well, you can buy a book, I guess, or shirts, or...
83	BJ	Yeah. Mm-hmm.
84	MF	Um...
85	BJ	((2 second pause)) ((Coughs)) When do you remember first starting to see those things? I'm...kind of curious when this kind of...Pittsburghese phenomenon started?
86	MF	I don't know. But I- I just distinctly remember not being allowed to use the word "YINZ."
87	BJ	Mm-hmm.

88	MF	But he also- we also couldn't say things like "search me." ((Laughs)) You know, that used to be, like, a popular...
89	BJ	Right, [I remember that.]
90	MF	[If you don't] know something, well, "search me." And, oh boy.
91	BJ	No, we weren't allowed to say "shut up."
92	MF	Oh no, we weren't. And till- No one in our house is allowed to say it...to this day. I still think [that's] just...so rude.
93	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
94	MF	((Intake of breath)) Um. Although the- you- It's hilarious...in the context they use it now with. You know, if you say something that's sort of...surprising, they'll say, "Shut up!" [You] know, did you ever... That's pretty funny.
95	BJ	(((Laughs))) Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
96	MF	But, um, no, (Emma) doesn't say that... But, uh, [I don't] know when I first started seeing it... Because, if you think about it, the-like the...Giant Eagle called their video store the "IGGLE Video Store."
97	BJ	(((Coughs))) Mm-hmm.
98	MF	And that was- ((2 second pause)) that was ten years, so...
99	BJ	Yeah, that was pretty recent.
100	MF	((1 second pause)) Yeah.
101	BJ	Um... Well, that first book, that little black-and-gold book, <i>How to Speak Like a Pittsburgher</i> , was published in 1982.
102	MF	((2 second pause)) Really?
103	BJ	Yeah.
104	MF	See I would have thought that would be earlier than that.
105	BJ	Well, there were...
106	MF	Oh.
107	BJ	Kind of predecessors of it, and there were newspaper articles about...quote unquote Pittsburghese from the 1960s.
108	MF	Just in Pittsburgh or...?
109	BJ	No, just [in Pittsburgh. Yeah,] just in Pittsburgh. I mean now...now people get interested in this and there's been articles in the, uh... you know, some of the national newspapers about it.
110	MF	[In other places? Yeah.] Huh.
111	BJ	'Cause people think this is kind of an interesting phenomenon, that a city would still have...such a distinctive accent and such a strong...awareness of it, you know. ((Intake of breath)) [Um...]
112	MF	[But] I- I would prefer the Pittsburgh accent to- to, like, the Rochester ("MN-NN-NANH"). [That] nasal, whiny thing. Yeah.
113	BJ	["RACHESTER"] They have a very different accent, um...
114	MF	Yeah.
115	BJ	All the vowels'...sounds are different. ((1 second pause)) "RACHESTER."
116	MF	Yeah, and they- But it's almost like they're whining when they

		[talk]. So I guess I just find that irritating.
117	BJ	(((Laughs))) Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) So what about “YINZER”? I mean, you- Um, a lot of people...your age, middle-aged people say they...have not heard that term. But you...
118	MF	Oh, “YINZER”?
119	BJ	Yeah.
120	MF	Oh.
121	BJ	((1 second pause)) When did you- When do you think people started using that term? Sally said she’d been... [She’s] known it since high-school, so...
122	MF	[()] Oh yeah.
123	BJ	Mm-hmm.
124	MF	Anybody that had the really thick Pittsburgh accent. ‘Cause you know there’s some that are <u>so</u> thick that...
125	BJ	((Coughs))
126	MF	((3 second pause)) I remember standing in Kennywood once and listening to this guy...talk about a “TOWER”? ((“TOWER” pronounced “TAR”))
127	BJ	Mm-hmm.
128	MF	And he was talking the- the- there was a high-wire act on... And he was talking about the- that wire that went from one “TOWER” to the other “TOWER.”
129	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((Laughs))
130	MF	((Laughing)) You know? ((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) () are, like, Oh my God. [It’s] just- it’s [just] great.
131	BJ	[Yep.] [Mm-hmm.]
132	MF	But ((3 second pause)) Bruce who’s from New York...um...worked in...you’ll just find this humorous, I [think]. ((Intake of breath)) He worked for (Copper’s) for awhile, [out] of school, and he was doing some kind of...programming at- at the tar plant. They had tar plants.
133	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
134	MF	((Clears throat)) And he was telling this friend of ours, Mark, who’s from Buffalo... ((Intake of breath)) Um...who’s married to one of the- my brother’s inlaws.
135	BJ	Mm-hmm.
136	MF	And they were over visiting...and (he) said, So where- where have you been traveling too? And he said, You know, I’ve been to this tar plant. And he said, What? Really? Well, I never knew (Copper’s) made tires. And he said, Mark, I’m from Buffalo. I said “ <u>tar</u> .”
137	BJ	((Laughs))
138	MF	As in “tar,” not “tire.” ((Laughs)) [It was the funniest thing.] Yeah, he was just so used to hearing “TIRE” that it meant...you know...
139	BJ	(((Laughing)) So used to hearing it that he’s-) Mm-hmm. Yeah.
140	MF	And-
141	BJ	Well, lot’s of outsiders have, you know, stories like that about...

		actually getting sort of thrown by... ((Intake of breath))
142	MF	Well, Bruce will talk about one of the first times he ever came into Pittsburgh with this...second band that he was with. Um. And he was prepared for it.
143	BJ	Mm-hmm.
144	MF	And they stopped at, uh, McDonalds, for something, and they- for <u>years</u> the guys in the band would just continue to say this quote and it was, um, "WE'RE CLOSED BUT (WANKY'S) IS OPEN." ((Performs quote in what sounds like an Australian accent))
145	BJ	((Laughs))
146	MF	However a Pittsburgher would say that. You know, instead of saying "closed"=
147	BJ	"CLOSED." ["CLOSED," yeah. Okay.]
148	MF	[Yeah. And- But] not "Winky's," but "WANKY'S"...is "OPEN."
149	BJ	((Laughing)) That I don't know, the- "OPEN." Yeah, mm-hmm.
150	MF	Yeah. And there's not even Winky's anymore, so... ((Laughs))
151	BJ	((Laughs))