

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	So have you ever heard of...what people call Pittsburghese?
2	MB	Yeah.
3	BJ	((Intake of breath)) What is it? What do you think it is? When people use that word, what are they talking about?
4	MB	Well it's probably a little, um...slang terms that are, uh... ((3 second pause)) strictly from Pittsburgh.
5	BJ	Mm-hmm=
6	MB	=I mean like when they call...a "soda" they call it "pop"...um, "SLIPPY sidewalks."
7	BJ	Mm-hmm.
8	MB	Uh, I think it's actually the <u>w</u> ords are different, not necessarily the...the pronunciation. [But] there's actually a...certain words...
9	BJ	[Hmm.] Mm-hmm.
10	MB	That, uh, like "BOLOGNA" or "JUMBO."
11	BJ	"JUMBO," yeah.
12	MB	"JUMBO." And, um, when they just eliminate like..."EAST LIBERTY."
13	BJ	Yeah.
14	MB	Um, it's the way things are said, I [guess, maybe]. "REDD UP."
15	BJ	[Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.] "REDD UP," yeah. Uh-huh. ((1 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) Yeah, so they're just- You'd say it was just sort [of words that people use around here?]
16	MB	[Well, I guess it's- Maybe it's a] mixture of words and- and- and- and-pronunciation. ["YINZ." "YINZ GUYS."] I think it's unique to [Pittsburgh]. Uh, so it's mostly...I think [terms] unique to Pittsburgh, or pronunciations unique to [Pittsburgh]. And, uh...there's a lot of them. ((Laughs))
17	BJ	[Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) Do you use any of them yourself?
18	MB	Um... ((3 second pause)) Yeah, I always say "pop."
19	BJ	Yeah=
20	MB	=I do say "pop," but I don't say "soda," I say "pop." To me soda is ice-cream in your pop. ((Laughs))
21	BJ	((Laughs)) Yeah.
22	MB	Uh... ((4 second pause)) I don't know that I use...any other ones.
23	BJ	Yeah.
24	MB	I try not to say, "HAUSE," "DAHNTAHN"... ((2 second pause)) things like that. Uh... And I'll say "JUMBO." I do say "BOLOGNA." ((2 second pause)) Mmm...
25	BJ	Mm-hmm.
26	MB	((1 second pause)) ((Smacks lips)) I don't know if I say "YINZ" or

		not. ((1 second pause)) I probably would surprise myself with how many...[things] I probably say and I don't realize.
27	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Yeah, I don't know.
28	MB	((1 second pause)) Um...
29	BJ	You know. ((1 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) ((1 second pause)) Uh-huh. So, uh, have you ever seen any... ((2 second pause)) I don't know ((1 second pause)) books or anything that have Pittsburghese written down?
30	MB	I have. I haven't really- I would never...[buy] one or anything, but I [have]...looked through them, [and]... I'll tell you where I notice it the most is when they interview people on television, like...something happens, some neighborhood in- [in] Pittsburgh and when they start to...interview people...that's when you hear it. And I think it's because when we watch television ((Intake of breath)) it's, um...again, it's [generic]. You don't have any real accents of the south, [or]- Maybe a little bit of New York if [it's]... ((2 second pause)) NYPD Blue, or- For the most part it's very...[generic]. And then when you hear people on the news talking about ((Intake of breath)) something happening "DAHN THE SHTREET." ((Laughs))
31	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [Right.] ((Laughs)) Yeah.
32	MB	"DAHN THE SHTREET." Like there's a way that..."SHTREET."
33	BJ	"SHTREET." Yeah. [Mm-hmm.]
34	MB	[Or, um...] ((2 second pause)) ((Smacks lips)) "Quit YEWLING at me." Like, the- the double "L's" [will] sound like a "W"... ((Intake of breath)) And you don't notice [this] un-, so much, until...it's on television. It's like, oh-my-god.
35	BJ	[Uh-huh.] [Mm-hmm.] ((Laughs))
36	MB	((Laughs)) You know.
37	BJ	Uh-huh=
38	MB	=Then you can really- Then it's very noticeable to [me.]
39	BJ	[Yeah.] Uh-huh. Yeah, [that's]- that's interesting. Yeah, I think your right. Yeah. Uh-huh. ((Intake of breath)) So, uh, have you ever heard the term "YINZER"? A "YINZER"? Like, a noun...?
40	MB	[So...] Probably it would [mean] a Pittsburgher, I would guess, [but...]
41	BJ	[Yeah.] [Yeah.] ((Papers shuffling)) Yeah, it is- That...is what it means, it's sort of...sometimes it's sort of a derogatory [term]. But I think it's a fairly new...it's a pretty new term.
42	MB	[Mm.] Oh, okay.
43	BJ	Do you ever- Do you ever... ((2 second pause)) listen to Jimmy Krenn on DVE.
44	MB	((1 second pause)) Um...
45	BJ	Or do [you- you do not have it on at that- Yeah.]
46	MB	[A little a bit in the morning,] I do. Not- not too much. Actually this

		[morning] I listened to him a little bit [because] ((Intake of breath)) I just bought a new radio for myself, since we reconstructed the kitchen.
47	BJ	[If...] [Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
48	MB	That was my little present, a little twenty-dollar radio. [And], um...I'm usually at work...
49	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Uh-huh.
50	MB	Or, uh...out walking the dogs...in the morning.
51	BJ	Mm-hmm.
52	MB	But I had it on this morning, so sometimes I hear...
53	BJ	Mm-hmm.
54	MB	Um...depending if I- if I have the radio on in the morning. I think he's off by nine-thirty, or something=
55	BJ	=Something like that, yeah.
56	MB	So...
57	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Yeah, he does some characters that have... Pittsburgh accents.
58	MB	((Intake of breath)) [Yeah.] [There was something] about... When I initially started to work at the prison there I did a...a few shifts where I didn't start until seven-thirty. And...I didn't know the fastest way to get to the...the North Side, so I kind of went the long way, the back way.
59	BJ	[Sometimes.] [It's part of his sp-] Mm-hmm.
60	MB	Well, I had to. Probably would do it <u>again</u> because of the time.
61	BJ	Mm-hmm.
62	MB	It was best to go the back way. And I heard this, uh...something about the "PROM KINGS." Or, I don't know the word... ((Laughs))
63	BJ	((Laughs)) The "PROM KINGS."
64	MB	Something about that- And I- It was hilarious.
65	BJ	Mm-hmm=
66	MB	=It was very...
67	BJ	((2 second pause)) He- I think he's great. Very funny, [yeah. But, um], it's interesting, he's got- Yeah, he's got a couple characters that...he does pretty often that [I think's kind of...]
68	MB	[Yeah, yeah.] [It was some] kind of, uh...like, you call these guys and- and they, uh...set you up in the- with the pr-, uh...for prom night. So it must have been around...May, when I heard him. And it... There you could see. He had the Pittsburghese, the accent...
69	BJ	Mm-hmm.
70	MB	(Down)- And it was very... ((3 second pause)) natural. Like, it [wasn't] put on, that's the way we [talk]. ((Laughs)) It was very- I liked it. [I thought it was funny. I thought] it was funny.
71	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] [He's good, yeah. Uh-huh, yeah.] ((Intake of breath)) Yeah, he's from the Strip. I mean, he's- he is [a

		Pittsburgher.] ((Papers shuffling)) ((1 second pause)) But then he sort of... So he has a kind of local accent [anyway], but then, you know, when he [sort of do- does these characters...]
72	MB	[Oh is he.] [Mmm-hmm.] [He embellishes it] a little bit.
73	BJ	Yeah, he- he puts it on a little bit.
74	MB	Yeah.
75	BJ	Yeah. Uh-huh. ((Papers shuffling)) Yeah- Oh, I was going to ask just a couple more words. Uh, you...mentioned...((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) “REDD UP,” and...“YINZ,” and “YINZ GUYS.” Uh... ((2 second pause)) What about a- ((2 second pause)) When somebody says “PICKSBURGH” as a way of saying “Pittsburgh,” have you ever heard that?
76	MB	I’ve heard it, but not... You hear it... People...when they talk Pittsburghese, when they say that- I only have one friend I know that says “PICKSBURGH.”
77	BJ	Mm-hmm.
78	MB	But yet, they act like that’s a common...
79	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Yeah=
80	MB	=I don’t know that it’s as common as the rest of them.
81	BJ	Mm-hmm. Yeah. I- I mean, I’d have to say I [haven’t heard it very often.]
82	MB	[Yeah, I have one] friend that says “PICKSBURGH” with [a...what is...]
83	BJ	[Mm-hmm. The] “K” sound in it.
84	MB	Yeah=
85	BJ	=Yeah, uh-huh. ((Intake of breath)) What about “N’AT”? ((Mumbled)) ()
86	MB	((2 second pause)) Yeah.
87	BJ	You do [hear that?]
88	MB	[“N’AT.”] I’ve [heard], yeah, there’s a lot of people with “N’AT.”
89	BJ	[Yeah.] Uh-huh. Have you ever heard of a “GRINNY”? ((2 second pause)) Uh=
90	MB	=Yeah that’s a little chipmunk.
91	BJ	Oh. [Okay.]
92	MB	[My-] You know what, my husband...says that.
93	BJ	Really? [Not-]
94	MB	[It’s a] chipmunk.
95	BJ	Yeah. Not- I don’t think very many people use that anymore.
96	MB	He does. ((Laughs))
97	BJ	He does? Yeah. [Uh-huh.]
98	MB	[He does.] Yeah.
99	BJ	Where’d he grow up? In the...
100	MB	Um, Mount Oliver.
101	BJ	((2 second pause)) So a little bit further...
102	MB	Mm-hmm.

103	BJ	Away. I don't [know maybe... Yeah.]
104	MB	[Well, Southside.] It's not that far=
105	BJ	=Uh-huh. Not that far, no.
106	MB	Unh-uh.
107	BJ	((1 second pause)) It's [(kind of) interesting that... Mm-hmm.]
108	MB	[In fact, I think Mount] Oliver is completely surrounded by city.
109	BJ	That's true. That's [true, now that I think of the map. Yeah.]
110	MB	[It's like a little... I don't know, it's] weird. It's like a little municipality, [plunked] in the middle of the [city], and I don't know how it, uh...
111	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] ((Intake of breath)) Yeah, that's an old word. An old, uh, Scotch-Irish word.
112	MB	Oh, is it.
113	BJ	And, uh...you know. Used to be, I think, that a lot of people used it but, uh...
114	MB	Oh...
115	BJ	You know when I'm- when I'm interview- talking to people and asking them... Most people... ((2 second pause)) have never heard that.
116	MB	Yeah, he [says it all the time.]
117	BJ	[So, that's...pretty interesting.] Uh-huh. ((Papers shuffling)) What about if somebody says- If- if you had, you know, some extra food...uh...from the night before, and you said something like, "These leftovers need eating." Or, if...the car was dirty, you could say, "The car needs washed."
118	MB	((2 second pause)) Mm-hmm=
119	BJ	=Does that sound normal to you?
120	MB	Mm-hmm=
121	BJ	=Is that the way you would say it?=-
122	MB	=Yeah, we always leave out the "to be."
123	BJ	Mm-hmm.
124	MB	You know. ((2 second pause)) "I'm going out the window."
125	BJ	Mm-hmm.
126	MB	"I'm going out the door," instead of "out of the..."
127	BJ	Mm-hmm=
128	MB	=It's like they just...skip through that little...
129	BJ	Yeah.
130	MB	"The car needs washed," the...
131	BJ	Uh-huh. "The cat wants out." [Yeah.]
132	MB	[Yeah.]
133	BJ	Uh-huh, [that] kind of thing. Mm-hmm.
134	MB	[Yeah.] Very normal.
135	BJ	Yeah=
136	MB	=Oh, yeah. Yeah. ((Loud noise in background))
137	BJ	Yeah, uh-huh. That is very normal. Mm-hmm. I mean I grew up

		hearing that too. ((1 second pause)) I'm not from Pittsburgh, I'm from Central Pennsylvania but a lot of the same...you know...same [words], the same accent. Yeah. Uh-huh.
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