

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	TP	((papers shuffling)) Uh, have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	KG	((one second pause)) Pixsburghese?
3	TP	Pittsburghese.
4	KG	((one second pause)) I don't think I've heard that term.
5	TP	No?
6	KG	... Pixburghese.
7	TP	Yeah, Pittsburghese.
8	KG	No. ... [Uh]
9	TP	[So you] wouldn't even have like an inkling as to what it means or
10	KG	Pixburghese. ((one second pause)) I musta missed that one.
11		((both laugh))
12	TP	Um, ... well, it's, it's Pittsburghese is uh, uh a way of speaking in Pittsburgh that a lot of Pittsburghers ((breathes in)) um, have embraced over the years either because it's, you know, ... been made into like, ... more or less marketing has made it big, because you see it on ads and t-shirts ((breathes in)) but like, words such as, like, Yinzer - have you ever heard of Yinzer?
13	KG	Yinzer. ((breathes in)) I've heard of "yinz" ((laughs))
14	TP	Yinz? Oh really? =
15	KG	=You, you, yinz, matter of fact my dad still says that.
16	TP	Your dad says Yinz? =
17	KG	=Yeah. =
18	TP	=Really?
19	KG	"YINZ kids better come downstairs." ((both laugh)) "Quit running around up there. What are YINZ doing up there?" He still says that. =
20	TP	=He does? =
21	KG	= Yeah he's been saying that for years.
22	TP	Wow.
23	KG	Yup.
24	TP	Do you see, do you find yourself saying yinz?
25	KG	... Nah, no, I, matter of fact I try not to say it. ((both laugh)) I'll, I'll say it in a joking manner, or something, but other than that, no, but my dad, yeah, he, he still says that.
26	TP	Does your mom ever use the word yinz?
27	KG	((2 second pause)) Um, not as much as he did. I think she did, but he used it all the time.
28	TP	All the time. =
29	KG	= Yeah, she didn't.
30	TP	Okay... Do you think his grand-, his, his parents used it? Your grandparents used it?

31	KG	Uh, uh, I'm trying to think, cause she was my, my dad's mom was my favorite grandmother, her name was Mimi.
32	TP	Mimi? Did you guys call her that?
33	KG	Yeah.
34	TP	Really? =
35	KG	= Her name was Mildred, but we called her Mimi, and she's the only person that ever spoiled me.
36	TP	Umh.
37	KG	But, I mean, every, everybody loved Mimi, she [was] everybody's favorite grandma.
38	TP	[Umhm] Umhm.
39	KG	((breathes in))
40	TP	But you never heard her [actually] using it?
41	KG	[I don't, I don't] ((1 second pause)) I don't remember her ever, hearing her ever say ... say it, but, I, I mean it's ((breathes in)) it's possible.
42	TP	Umhm.=
43	KG	= It's probably where he picked it up from.
44	TP	((swallows)) Have you ever heard of the term "Red up?"
45	KG	((2 second pause)) I've heard of it.
46	TP	Umhm.
47	KG	...I don't think I've ever, knew =
48	TP	= used it? =
49	KG	= knew pretty much what it meant, or used it, no.
50	TP	Um ((1 second pause)) alright, ... for instance a term like, "grinny," have you ever heard of "grinny?"
51	KG	"Grinny"
52	TP	Yeah ((1 second pause)) an expression for like a small animal or chipmunk or something? ((laughs))
53	KG	Hm mm (no)
54	TP	No? ((laughs)) What about like, have you ever heard people pronounce Pittsburgh "Pixburgh?"
55	KG	Yeah. I say it sometimes ((laughs))
56	TP	Oh you do? =
57	KG	= When I say it too fast ...
58	TP	Yeah. =
59	KG	= Yeah.
60	TP	((laughs))
61	KG	Yup.
62	TP	So you find yourself saying, like, "Pixburgh" [when] you're talking really quickly?
63	KG	[Yeah.]
64	TP	Yeah.
65	KG	And people correct me sarcastic, sarcasticly.
66	TP	Mmhm ... Have you, do you, have you ever found yourself saying,

		like, “the car needs washing?”
67	KG	((laughs)) That sounds more like a ((man in background talking to interviewee, who responds, laughs, then returns to interview conversation)) ... Um, what, say that again
68	TP	Like =
69	KG	= What was that called?
70	TP	= If you, if you say, you know, “This, this car needs washing” or “The grass needs cutting” [Do you find yourself saying that?]
71	KG	[Uh, that’s, that’s] Nah, that’s, that sounds like more of a Southern type ... language.
72	TP	Okay.
73	KG	Yeah.
74	TP	You never fing yourself saying that, huh?
75	KG	Mm mm (no) I usually say “washed.”
76	TP	Mmhmm.
77	KG	“Car needs washed.”
78	TP	Mhmm. =
79	KG	= “Grass needs cut.”
80	TP	Mhmm.
81	KG	“Needs a cuttin.” =
82	TP	= “Needs a cut,” or “Needs to be cut.”
83	KG	((laughs)) Yeah ... No, I’ve heard people say, um ... and that’s probably cause only people from other towns say it, but you know, they like, “I’m fitting to go here,” or
84	TP	((laughs)) “Fitting” ((laughs)) =
85	KG	= Yeah.
86	TP	((laughs)) Yeah. So do you think like, African Americans talk differently from like ... um, maybe like blue collar white, white people, white folks?
87	KG	((breathes in)) Yeah.
88	TP	Either because of the Southern connection [that]
89	KG	[Yeah,] yeah, I think they just talk different, period.
90	TP	Unh hunh.
91	KG	Cause, um, ((swallows)) You talking about just, like, kinda like slang talking, [or ... or just like accent]
92	TP	[Mhm, yeah, it could be that, too.] It could be like hip hop, or ((breathes in)) um, slang terms that, that are different.
93	KG	Yeah.
94	TP	Yeah.
95	KG	((breathes in)) Yeah, definitely ...
96	TP	So like growing up in high school did, did you and your friends speak differently from like, somehow like, maybe how the white kids were talking?
97	KG	Oh yeah. Yeah, it, I mean ... just in the last ... I would say I don’t know, ten years maybe ((breathes in)) I mean it’s like they’re

		starting to talk a little more like us =
98	TP	= Yeah =
99	KG	= You know, cause they're like, I don't know, it's like ...
100	TP	Listening to more hip hop, [so hip hop has definitely infiltrated]
101	KG	[Yeah, oh, definitely, you can see that,] yeah, definitely.
102	TP	Unh hunh.
103	KG	But back when we was in school it wasn't ((breathes in)) nah, I, I can't even remember anybody that, you know ... tried to talk like us, [or], or did.
104	TP	[Umhm]
105	KG	Oh no, I'm sorry, I take that back. ((breathes in)) Guy called, uh, we called him, "White Tom"
106	TP	((laughs))
107	KG	((woman laughs in background)) And he was the coolest white dude on the Hill.
108	TP	((laughs))
109	KG	If you didn't see him =
110	TP	= Unh hunh =
111	KG	= actually see him and hear him talking you'd thought he was black.
112	TP	Really? ...
113	KG	I ran into him not too long ago, he works in uh ... Permanti Brothers, I think.
114	TP	Mmhmm.
115	KG	And I swear he was the ((laughs)) he was the, he was the whitest black dude you ever seen ((both laugh)) I mean he was, he had the walk, everything, the haircut, everything =
116	TP	= Everything. [Is he] still like that?
117	KG	[Everything]
118	TP	Do you
119	KG	[Yeah] =
120	TP	= Really? =
121	KG	Yeah, he's, he's real cool. =
122	TP	= Mmhmm. =
123	KG	= And I seen him, he like, "What's up K, what's up boy? Come here man. Watcha been (chewing) up, dog?"
124	TP	((laughs))
125	KG	He's, he's just ((laughs)) [he's just real cool]
126	TP	[So like, terms] like, "Dog," or ... like, what words do you think separate, like African American youth speech from like ... like words that like white kids used when you were coming up, or even like, now ... cause I know "Dog" is definitely one that ... you see a lot of black males use.
127	KG	Yeah. [I use that all the time... Yeah.]
128	TP	[as a, as a term of endearment. Yeah.]
129	KG	((1 second pause)) Hmm.

130	TP	You think like, maybe like, “Chill” or “Ill?” ((churchbells ring in background)) You know those terms that [you hear in rap songs?] ((laughs))
131	KG	[Yeah. ((laughs))] Yeah, they um, I, now that you said that, um, I do ... remember, cause I remember when, uh, Grand Master Flash, and, and Curtis Blow ((churchbells keep ringing)), you know they’d all be saying that, [and]
132	TP	[Mmhmm.]
133	KG	we would say it in school, and then, you know the white kids would be like ... “So, y’all just <i>chillin?</i> ” ((both laugh)) You know they would try to say it, [but couldn’t actually...it wouldn’t flow right, you know what I mean?] ((laughs))
134	TP	[But it, but it was, was ... yeah ... yeah]
135	KG	So, yeah, they ... I think it was more, I don’t think they were trying to actually like ... “Be hip,” is what they tried to used to say
136	TP	Mmhmm.
137	KG	But, um ... I think they were just, it’s like a more, more of a joking ... joking manner. [Cause, uh]
138	TP	[Mmhmm.]
139	KG	() I will never forget that the same guy, uh, Billy (White Boy), he was like my best white friend in the school. =
140	TP	= Mmhmm. =
141	KG	= Cause we had like every class together ... and this was back when um, ... uh, Teddy Pendergrass
142	TP	((laughs))
143	KG	was, uh, got in that car accident.
144	TP	Aw, yeah, mmhmm.
145	KG	So, it was the seventh period, the last period of the day, and our social studies teacher ... would always quiz us [as to] who would leave first.
146	TP	[Mmhmm] Mmhmm.
147	KG	So I answered my question, then she, um, she answered the next question, so I didn’t, I was, I could leave but I was waiting on him ... So, he, she said, uh, who was the, um, ... the black singer that was paralyzed in the car accident, uh, not too long ago? ... So I whispered to Billy, I was like, “Say ‘Teddy Pendergrass.’” He threw his hand up in the air ... it was so ((laughs)) so funny, she called on him, he was like, “Teddy Bindezass.”
148	TP	((laughs))
149	KG	I’m like ((laughs)), I said “Teddy Pendergrass.” Everybody was cracking up. ((laughs))
150	TP	Oh my gosh, he had no idea who Teddy, Teddy Pendergrass [was?]
151	KG	[No idea who he was.] I was <u>cracking</u> up ... I mean the way his expression, and the way he said it, and he was all excited, [you know, cause] ... It was funny.
152	TP	[Mmhmm.] Mmhmm.

153	KG	But um, ... yeah, it was, it was, it was fun listening to them, you know, try to say the little slang words, [and the (typical)]
154	TP	[Mmhmm] What words did they use that you thought were like different ... did, that you can remember?
155	KG	Hmm. ((2 second pause))
156	TP	I know for me one would be like "rad," and "stoked," and
157	KG	((laughs)) I remember "rad."
158	TP	Yeah.
159	KG	"Rad," and um, ((1 second pause)) there was, uh, quite a few, uh, quite a few that I heard, I cant remember em, though. ((woman laughs in background))
160	TP	What terms, what terms now ... do you see as more ((woman laughs in background)) um, that African Americans, ... that are young today, what type of slang words do they use now?
161	KG	Aw, man, they use ... um, ((1 second pause)) um, ... they use, "Yo," a lot, and um, =
162	TP	= Umhm.
163	KG	And um, you ever heard of um, ... "Nefs?"
164	TP	No. What does that mean?
165	KG	((laughs)) Well they'll say something like, um, "Man, I'm telling you, man, <i>Nefs</i> , man, <i>Nefs</i> , he was coming, I'm telling you, <i>Nefs</i> he did it, <i>Nefs</i> he," I'm like what does "Nefs" mean? Then it, it's like ... I wouldn't even know how to spell that word.
166	TP	Unhunh. ((laughs))
167	KG	If it is a word.
168	TP	Unhunh.
169	KG	You know it's ... uh, that one, and um, "Ikey," you know, "What's up, Ike," um, "Everybody was Ike," I don't care if you was a girl or a boy, "What's up Ike?" ... Then the other one was uh, we were using, we was coming up with um, ... um, ((1 second pause)) oh, what was that name? It was a name ((1 second pause))
170	TP	((laughs))
171	KG	It'll come to me in a second.
172	TP	((laughs))
173	KG	I hate when my mind goes blank
174	TP	((laughs))
175	KG	((2 second pause)) Mm Mm Mm. It's going to come to me soon as we're done, watch.
176	TP	((laughs))
177	KG	Ike ... Actually everybody started saying "Ike," cause this one guy named Ike, he had gotten killed ... and everybody was um, =
178	TP	= In Pittsburgh?
179	KG	Yeah.
180	TP	Okay. =
181	KG	= Yeah, and, and everybody would, wear t-shirts and stuff that says

		“Ike” on it.
182	TP	Mmhmm.
183	KG	And then, all of a sudden, “What’s up Ike?” “Hey, what’s up Ike, how you doin, Ike?” and then it was [Ike this]
184	TP	[So it was more like] a <u>neighborhood</u> slang term?
185	KG	Yeah, pretty much, yeah.
186	TP	Okay.
187	KG	And, ... oh, “Jim.”
188	TP	“Jim?”
189	KG	Everybody was “Jim.” “What’s up Jim?”
190	TP	((laughs))
191	KG	And they would say it like, like not just “Jim,” it was like, “What’s up Jiiim?”
192	TP	((laughs)) “Jiiim” ((laughs))
193	KG	Yeah, everybody was “Jim.” Yeah, so ((music in background)) that was like, ((woman laughs in background)) two of the, I guess you would call them slang names, that everybody used then.
194	TP	Umhm. Do you see Pittsburghers, Black Pittsburghers, speak differently from like Black Cleavelanders, or ((breathes in and sighs))
195	KG	Uh, well the slang is definitely there, [and they], course they say we have slang, (and) not slang, but an accent, you know and then ... to me they got more accent than anybody, you know what I’m saying, I’m like
196	TP	[Umhm.] ((laughs))
197	KG	They the ones that say, uh, ((1 second pause)) “I’m goin to the sto” or
198	TP	Unhunh. [Unhunh.]
199	KG	[You know] ... So
200	TP	Do you think that there’s a more Southern accent in the [Cleaveland] area?
201	KG	[Yeah.] Yeah. You know, they think we have an accent
202	TP	Umhm ... Umhm.
203	KG	And some people sound, they, they say, uh ((1 second pause)) they sayin like, I, I talk proper sometimes, I’m like, “I do?”
204	TP	((laughs)) Well does that mean that you not speaking like African American speech or you just ...
205	KG	I don’t know, just I guess the words, some of the words that I, I pronounce
206	TP	Umhm.
207	KG	I guess I pronounce them right.
208	TP	Mmhmm.
209	KG	((laughs)) =
210	TP	= Mmhmm.
211	KG	Instead of just putting the little ((1 second pause)) little zing on it [(

)], you know what I'm saying.
212	TP	[Mmhm.] Or, or twang, or
213	KG	Yeah.
214	TP	Mmhm ... Okay.