

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	So, uh, have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	RP	Yeah.
3	BJ	So, what- what do you think it is? How would you describe what it is?
4	RP	((Intake of breath)) Well, I think it's...an accent that somehow applies to Pittsburghers. Um... And then there's certain words that we've adopted that apparently you can't find anywhere else. Although I will say that people at my school do say "pop"...all the time. Um... Uh, "CHIPPED HAM," I guess, is different. And, uh, the way we say "wash." Although, I just say "wash," so I don't know.
5	BJ	Mm-hmm.
6	RP	But, um... ((2 second pause)) "CITY CHICKEN"...or something?
7	BJ	Yeah.
8	RP	That's not a very popular one, but people always point that out, for whatever reason. [Um...]
9	BJ	[I don't] know- I've never actually heard anyone say that, but I've seen it in [lots of lists of...]
10	RP	[Right. Yeah.] Yeah, I've never heard anyone say it...either. But...
11	BJ	So where do you find out about these things? I mean, how do you...know what Pittsburghese is?
12	RP	Well, my first introduction to it actually came from a teacher in, I think, seventh grade. Um... Some goofy, insane woman that- that wanted to tell us about Pittsburghese, and...we wrote a big list on the back of our spelling-books of...different words, and...
13	BJ	Hmm.
14	RP	Whatever. I mean, I- I don't remember all of them, but... And then just over the years, you know, I hear the...the accent and I can...you know, hear and distinguish Pittsburgh accent, in some [people.]
15	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Like...who? People you- People around here?
16	RP	((3 second pause) Yeah. I find it most common in middle-aged women, I don't know why. [But...]
17	BJ	[Hmm.] Middle-aged women, that's interesting.
18	RP	For whatever reason, that's where I hear it a lot.
19	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((2 second pause)) So if it's not just those people saying those words, what else? What else- When you notice it in middle-aged women, what do you notice?
20	RP	Well, I notice it in more than that, I just said like [that's]...the most prevalent group, if I had to.
21	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Right. Uh-huh.

22	RP	Um...
23	BJ	I mean, is it...?
24	RP	It's just a certain accent. [I mean, I can't] really...
25	BJ	[It's just a certain accent.] You can't really describe it? Yeah.
26	RP	Yeah. It's- it's tough to [describe]. It's just a Pittsburgh accent, I guess.
27	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] ((Intake of breath)) Um, so have you ever seen any books or anything about Pittsburghese?
28	RP	No. No, I never really...
29	BJ	Have you ever- Do you ever see that little...dictionary, <i>How to Speak Like a Pittsburgher</i> ?
30	RP	No. I've never seen that.
31	BJ	What about the T-shirts and things? ((2 second pause)) With Pittsburghese on them?
32	RP	((2 second pause)) No. I- I don't think so.
33	BJ	Yeah. Well, they have- You know, if you go down to the Strip they will...always have- You know, the T-shirt place have the "Cleveland Sucks" T-shirts, and [the Steelers T-shirts, and] they also have the Pittsburghese ones... You know. ((Intake of breath)) What about "YINZER"? Have you ever heard the term "YINZER"? A per- As a way to- to describe a person? "That person is a YINZER"?
34	RP	[Oh yeah. Yeah.] Oh yeah. Yeah.
35	BJ	What does that mean?
36	RP	Uh, I always thought it was just a person from Pittsburgh.
37	BJ	Anybody from Pittsburgh?
38	RP	That's what I thought. But I- I don't know, I mean, I guess it could have some negative connotation, or [something]. I have no idea.
39	BJ	[Yeah.] ((2 second pause)) Would you say you're a "YINZER"?
40	RP	I don't know. I mean, I don't really use that term, so I guess I don't...really know what one is. So, I don't know?
41	BJ	Mm-hmm.
42	RP	I guess if someone called me that I would just assume they were- meant that I was from Pittsburgh. And I'll be like, Huh, alright. [Yeah], you're right. ((Laughs))
43	BJ	[Hmm.] ((Intake of breath)) Okay, uh, just a...a couple of words here that I want to see if you've ever heard. Um, do you...ever use "YINZ," or "YUNZ"?
44	RP	Occasionally. Like, occasionally I'll just say "YINZ." Um...
45	BJ	Mm-hmm.
46	RP	Just not thinking, I guess. But- but I don't use it regularly, no.
47	BJ	Mm-hmm.
48	RP	Never said "YUNZ" though. Never said that.
49	BJ	What's the difference? ((1 second pause)) Just two different [words?]

50	RP	[I guess] there is none. But I've never heard anyone say "YUNZ." I've heard "YINZ" a lot, but...
51	BJ	Well, I've- "YOUNZ." Hmm. I don't know.
52	RP	I don't know. I've never [heard that one.]
53	BJ	[There's different] ways- I've heard it pronounced differently.
54	RP	Hmm.
55	BJ	What about "YINZ GUYS"? Is that a...Pittsburgh thing?
56	RP	I don't know. I mean, it's definitely seen in Pittsburgh. I don't know if it's seen other places or not, but...
57	BJ	Mm-hmm.
58	RP	Yeah, I've- I've heard that a lot. I- I don't really... I guess every now and then I'll use that.
59	BJ	Mm-hmm.
60	RP	Just not- not- You know, subconsciously I'll just, you [know], say it.
61	BJ	[Just-] Uh-huh.
62	RP	But... I don't know.=
63	BJ	=Okay, here's- This one is about sort of a gram- a little bit of grammar here. Somebody has... if the... uh, if there's extra food... in the refrigerator, somebody might say, "These leftovers need eating," or if some- ((Papers shuffling)) if, uh, the grass is getting too long, somebody might say, "The grass needs cut." ((3 second pause)) Does that sound like the...normal way to say those things?
64	RP	Yeah. Yeah.
65	BJ	Nobody's ever...commented on that?
66	RP	((2 second pause)) No.
67	BJ	"Roads...need fixed in the spring." That kind of thing. Mm-hmm. Okay. What about "REDD UP"? ((2 second pause)) Did you- Did your mom ever use the word "REDD UP"?
68	RP	No, she didn't.
69	BJ	Yeah.
70	RP	I've never heard that actually used. [I've] heard of that term from people, but I've never heard it used by anyone.
71	BJ	[Really?] Huh. That's interesting. ((1 second pause)) What about "N'AT"...for the end of a list of things? You know... Um...
72	RP	Oh...
73	BJ	You know, "He likes sports, he likes swimming n'at."
74	RP	Yeah, I've heard that before. I've never used it, but I've heard it. ((Yawns))
75	BJ	You don't think you use it. Uh-huh.
76	RP	(Again.)
77	BJ	What about a "GRINNY"? Have you ever heard of a "GRINNY"?
78	RP	Never.
79	BJ	It's an old...word in this region for a chipmunk.
80	RP	Hmm.

81	BJ	I don't- Not [very many people actually-]
82	RP	[Never even heard it.]
83	BJ	Yeah, not very many people in the city have heard of it. ((Intake of breath)) What about "PICKSBURGH"? When people say "PICKSBURGH," instead of "Pittsburgh"? ((2 second pause)) Do you do that, or do you know people who do that?
84	RP	I say Pittsburgh, um... ((4 second pause)) I don't know. I guess I've not really paid that much attention to really...detect that one, but I believe- I'm- I'm sure it's there.
85	BJ	It's sometimes on those lists of Pittsburghese [things and I] just wonder who actually says it. You know, I don't know.
86	RP	[Oh, okay.]