

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	((Recorded outside, only one mic working. Various outdoor noises throughout)) When you were in Boston did it seem like...?
2	JP	((Intake of breath)) Um=
3	BJ	=Did people identify you as a Pittsburgher, or did it...?
4	JP	((4 second pause)) No...because I was, um... ((4 second pause)) It-it's more cosmopolitan there, I think.
5	BJ	Mm-hmm.
6	JP	And it would- The time of my life...that...that was just kind of expected. There were- You know, when you're in school, there's people that come from all over the United States. I was more distant than most. I mean, most of them were New Englanders, or New York, Philly, that sort of thing. So, Pittsburgh was <u>west</u> .
7	BJ	Mm-hmm.
8	JP	You know, it was really- it was- I mean, I remember when I started teaching, some of the, um ((3 second pause)) kids...mentioned how-what a southern accent I had. ((Laughs)) And it was like, <u>whoa</u> . ((Laughs))
9	BJ	Southern accent?
10	JP	Yeah, well...but, you know, these were very...
11	BJ	((1 second pause)) Southern from their perspective.
12	JP	Southern from their perspective. And it was- They were very New England with their twang and- and things like that, so...
13	BJ	Mm-hmm.
14	JP	And some of my words were different. You know, the- the terms that you use.
15	BJ	((2 second pause)) Mm-hmm.
16	JP	So...but... Yeah. I remember teaching a...lesson in Language Arts about...you know, about "a skillet," "a spider," "a fry-pan." You know, Which term do you use? [And it was like...]
17	BJ	[Oh, yeah.] Uh-huh. That's interesting. Uh-huh.
18	JP	I'll never forget. That was, like, my first year. And it was like, <u>whoa</u> . ((Laughs))
19	BJ	I've never met anybody who...used "spider" for that.
20	JP	It's just South=
21	BJ	=Do they do that in ( )?
22	JP	No, it's the South.
23	BJ	Oh.
24	JP	At least that's what the teacher's edition said. ((Laughs))
25	BJ	((Laughs)) Well, [this-] this- this research was, you know...when they ( ) in the thirties and forties- nineteen- you know, the early part of the twentieth [century], when they were...sending people

		around people around to these old- ((2 second pause)) to talk to old people [on-] in- on farms [and] find out what the [regional] words for things were. And they did some of that research around- in Western Pennsylvania, too.
26	JP	[Yeah.] [Mm-hmm.] [Right.] [Mm-hmm.] [Mm-hmm.] Oh did they?
27	BJ	Mm-hmm.
28	JP	Oh.
29	BJ	And they, you know, recorded some of the words that, uh...
30	JP	People [use.]
31	BJ	[I guess] people still think of now as...sort of Pittsburghese.
32	JP	Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
33	BJ	Um...
34	JP	((Intake of breath)) Well, I remember saying- We were talking about Columbus's "route," and I called it his "RAWTE." And I must have had a very...thick...Pittsburgh accent to them. What's a "RAWTE"? Well, you know, did he take the northern "RAWTE," or the southern "RAWTE"? ((Laughs)) You mean "route"? ((2 second pause)) [Okay. You know.] And it's- it's spelled the same, it's how you [pronounce] it, so...
35	BJ	[Huh. Uh-huh.] [Yeah.] It's different pronunciations, yeah.
36	JP	Mm-hmm.
37	BJ	Uh-huh... Yeah. Can- Are there- ((2 second pause)) Are there other words that came up like that, or...pronunciations?
38	JP	Not- I mean, this was thirty years ago. [But] I- I don't- But I remember those- those- that one lesson, and I remember in the- in the Social Studies about Columbus's "route," or his "RAWTE." ((Laughs))
39	BJ	[Yeah.] ((Laughs)) Well, kids are always looking for things to sort of...pick on.
40	JP	I know. ((Laughs))
41	BJ	( )
42	JP	And being a new teacher, you know, it's like, Okay, what did I do wrong here? ((Laughs))
43	BJ	((Laughs)) Uh-huh. ((Intake of breath)) So you've heard of...the term, "PITTSBURGHESE"?
44	JP	Mm-hmm.
45	BJ	What does that mean to you? ((Noises in background))
46	JP	Um... ((4 second pause)) It grates at me, for some words. I mean, words like "YINZ" and things like that. I just... I cringe when I hear that. It- it really- I guess because ((Intake of breath)) it's not- ((2 second pause)) We were raised- I was raised like that. It's not proper English. You know. And- and the nuns were very...strict about how you talked and things like that. ((Intake of breath)) I have people in my extended family, cousins and things, that talk like that, but, um... It's just very, um... It's still annoying to me. Just...

47	BJ	Is it- Do you think it's...an accent, or...just...words [( )?]
48	JP	[Some of it...] Some of it's bad grammar. Some of it's kind of slang...to me. I mean, that's my interpretation of it. Slang, bad grammar.
49	BJ	Mm-hmm.
50	JP	Um...
51	BJ	Do you associate it with pronunciation? Like, the "route," "RAWTE" type of thing, or is that...?
52	JP	((1 second pause)) Uh, some of it's pronunciation. Some of it's just bad grammar.
53	BJ	Mm-hmm.
54	JP	((Intake of breath)) Anymore, though, I've- I've become more mellow...and just accepting people for the way they say things. You know, that's... You know, that's the way it is.
55	BJ	Mm-hmm. Have you ever seen any of those...books, or anything with Pittsburghese written on them?
56	JP	Mm-hmm. ((3 second pause)) I don't look at them. ((Laughs))
57	BJ	((Laughs)) Yeah. ((2 second pause)) You remember that- There's a little book that's been around for quite a long time that- it's a little kind of dictionary. <i>How [to Speak Pittsburgh.]</i>
58	JP	[ <i>How to Speak</i> ] <i>Pittsburgh</i> . Yeah.
59	BJ	Yeah.
60	JP	In fact, when my sister was here...in Pittsburgh, this summer, with her husband...we went down to the Strip District and she bought one of those T-shirts with Pittsburghese. And it's like, Oh, (Phyllis). ((Laughs))
61	BJ	((Laughs)) Why would she- Why did she do that? I mean, why...? Why do you think she wanted one?
62	JP	Um... ((3 second pause)) She still feels very tied to Pittsburgh in a lot of ways. Even though she's lived up in- in Chicago for almost thirty years, I think she still feels very tied...[to] Pittsburgh.
63	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] ((1 second pause)) Yeah, one time I asked a guy who sells T-shirts on the Strip who he thinks buys them and he just, without even...having to stop and think, he said, Pittsburghers who don't live here anymore.
64	JP	Mm-hmm.
65	BJ	So your sister would be...[fit into that- fit into that category.]
66	JP	[Fit into that, perfectly. Uh-huh.]
67	BJ	Because people who...you know, have this kind of nostalgia...
68	JP	Mm-hmm.
69	BJ	You know, kind of homesick or whatever, they [want to ( )]
70	JP	[Good memories.] Or, you know, warm fuzzy feelings of growing up in, you know, that sort of thing.
71	BJ	So you- They actually remember... they remember hearing some of those words, or maybe [using them, or...?]

72	JP	[Oh yes. Yes.] Very much so. Yeah.
73	BJ	Mm-hmm. Yeah. ((1 second pause)) Have you ever heard the term “YINZER”? A “YINZER,” for a person?
74	JP	No.
75	BJ	No. That’s [interesting.]
76	JP	[“Yinz,”] but not “YINZER.” No.
77	BJ	“YINZER.” That’s a new word that, uh...some younger people are using...to refer to this kind of stereotype of a...working-class...Pittsburgher with an acc- a local accent.
78	JP	Hmm. [No.]
79	BJ	[(It’s) a brand new) word. I’m just curious who’s- who’s come across it. Hmm. ((2 second pause)) Mm-hmm. Let me just ask you a couple- You said you’ve heard “YINZ.” Did you hear it growing up? I mean, in your family?= =Growing up. ((Intake of breath)) Not in my immediate family. I had cousins who used it.
80	JP	
81	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) Yeah. What was- And you’re- ((2 second pause)) Why would it be- Why was it different in your immediate family? Because you went to Catholic school and [the nuns told you not to...?]
82	JP	[I think that was some] of it. I think it was- My parents never used-talked like that, either.
83	BJ	Why didn’t they?
84	JP	I don’t know... I don’t know.
85	BJ	Hmm. You said you- [You said ( )] your dad worked with.
86	JP	[Uh, my- I have a-] I’m sure they did, yeah.
87	BJ	Mm-hmm.
88	JP	I...don’t know. They just never did.
89	BJ	Hmm.
90	JP	And yet my cousin who is...from my father’s side. I mean, they’re my age, and...they’re very nice. But, you know, “YINZ” and, uh- I just kind of, okay? ((Laughs))
91	BJ	Mm-hmm.
92	JP	Now, some of their...their nieces and nephews don’t use it. But it’s just- I- I can’t- can’t explain it.
93	BJ	Yeah. Well, see, that’s one thing I’m interested in, is what...what happens?= =How does it?
94	JP	
95	BJ	How does- How do these changes happen? I mean, what has to happen in a family, what has to happen in a neighborhood? Because, in some families, you hear now the...parents still speak with a very local [accent], and the kids don’t. In other families, the parents no longer have a local accent, and the kids don’t. Some families, everybody still does. I mean, it’s a- Hmm. [(I’m interested in)] untangling all that.
96	JP	[Mm-hmm.] [I don’t know.] Um...

97	BJ	Mm-hmm.
98	JP	I think probably the nuns in the Cath- parochial schools probably had a, uh, strong influence on that too, though. But I think- I would suspect, too, more the family, and- ((Intake of breath)) ((2 second pause)) ((Dog barking)) You know...what people do, beyond high-school, I think is another important key.
99	BJ	Mm-hmm.
100	JP	You know, where they see themselves fitting globally, or...you know, that [sort of thing.]
101	BJ	[Yeah, and that's] another- You know, since more and more... people have to kind of... People's jobs involve talking to people from elsewhere.
102	JP	Mm-hmm.
103	BJ	There's a lot of jobs where you're- ((Dog barking)) you're actually judged on how you talk.
104	JP	Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
105	BJ	Not even very...good jobs. Like just...telephone sales, you know.
106	JP	Mm-hmm.
107	BJ	That kind of thing. ((Dog barking)) In the (menial) jobs (nobody)- it matters how you talk.
108	JP	Mm-hmm.
109	BJ	So that's changed. Hmm. ((2 second pause)) What about if, uh, this- when somebody...says something like, "The lawn needs mowed," or "The car needs washed." Does that sound...normal to you? Would that be the way you'd say those things?
110	JP	((Intake of breath))
111	BJ	"The car needs washed." ((2 second pause)) And ( ) ("these clothes need ironed")? ((Dog barking)) ((4 second pause)) That sounds norm- That just...?
112	JP	That sounds normal to me. Mm-hmm.
113	BJ	Yeah. What about "REDD UP," or "RID UP"? Did you- Do you remember people saying that?
114	JP	I remember people saying that. But I- I don't. You know, "Let's clean the room," or whatever, but I would never say "REDD UP."
115	BJ	Yeah. A lot of people still do, [around] here.
116	JP	[Mm-hmm.]
117	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) Yeah. What about "GRINNY"? Have you ever heard "GRINNY"?
118	JP	"GRINNY"?
119	BJ	A "GRINNY." Yeah.
120	JP	No.
121	BJ	"G," "R," "I," "N," "N," "Y." [That's a-]
122	JP	[What is it?]
123	BJ	One of these old terms that, uh...[(lots of) people] used to know.
124	JP	[I've never heard it.]

125	BJ	It's a...I think it's a chipmunk. ((2 second pause)) Um, I've- I've run across just like...doing all these interviews, I've run across maybe two people who actually know [that word, and they] think it's something like a chipmunk. They're not even really sure what it is anymore, but...they've heard [it. Or...]
126	JP	[I've never heard it.] [I've never] heard that.
127	BJ	It's similar- A kind of little rodent. Like a mole, maybe.
128	JP	Huh.
129	BJ	Anyway, that's one of those words that, if you look, there's a- there's a wonderful dictionary, called <i>The Dictionary of American Regional English</i> ...um, that has... It's the result- you know, the- it's the result of that kind of study [we] were talking about before. And it has that as a...old Western Pennsylvania word.
130	JP	[Mm-hmm.] I've never heard of that.
131	BJ	I think it was more rural. ((1 second pause)) Yeah, it has "GUMBAND," and it has, you know, like...
132	JP	Yeah, so...
133	BJ	A lot of [words] that people do think are...local. But it has these other ones, too. ((1 second pause)) What about... "PICKSBURGH"? Have you ever heard anybody say... "PICKSBURGH," [instead] of "Pittsburgh"?
134	JP	[Mm-hmm.] ["PICKS-BURGH"?] ((3 second pause)) I've heard it, but I- It's not something that I- Yeah, I've heard it before.
135	BJ	Hmm. Do you- You wouldn't associate- Would you associate it with any particular...?
136	JP	No... No.
137	BJ	(Do you have) the sense that people talk differently in different neighborhoods? Used to, or...?
138	JP	((Sighs)) ((3 second pause)) Yes.
139	BJ	Mm-hmm.
140	JP	Yes. I, uh- And a lot of that I think has to do with ((Intake of breath)) people were...more...provincial in staying in their neighborhood. They- they went to school there, they worked there, or... ((Intake of breath)) You know, the car has just opened up the world. You know, the internet. Everything like that. It's really changed a lot and made- it's made people more global. Um, but I think...my generation, anyway, people were more, at least in growing up...
141	BJ	Mm-hmm.
142	JP	Um... ((2 second pause)) Your neighborhood, and- and where you went to school, and your family, was a very strong influence on how speak.=
143	BJ	=Yeah, and some- I mean, I'm...in your generation, too, and... um...we were sort of the transitional generation, I [think], between... you know, really tight-knit neighborhoods and, uh...
144	JP	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.

145	BJ	(I mean), we were the first generation to have- to be driving when we were teenagers, [and] things like that.
146	JP	[Right.] Right. I was the first...girl in my...in my whole generation to go away to college.
147	BJ	Mm-hmm.
148	JP	You know, that was a big thing.
149	BJ	To go away, you mean. As [supposed-]
150	JP	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm. Actually, yeah.
151	BJ	As supposed to going to Pitt, or something.
152	JP	Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.
153	BJ	Hmm. What- How did you decide?
154	JP	How did I decide to go away? ((Intake of breath)) I, um...had gone to Pitt for a little bit, and I didn't- and I quit, and I didn't know what I wanted to do. And when I decided to go back into education...I didn't have the money to go straight through, and I needed- I knew I needed the experience of working with kids. And Northeastern has a co-op program where you go to school for ten-weeks, and then you work for ten-weeks. And they try to place you in positions that are relevant to your field.
155	BJ	Mm-hmm.
156	JP	And, um...that's where- where I went.
157	BJ	Hmm.
158	JP	I wanted to do that. And I- I-
159	BJ	Did you get a scholarship there?
160	JP	I... No, I... I went there for the first year and a half, two years, and...did tran- you know, uh, insurance company work. And finally I just went into the co-op office and said, Look, I need to have something in my field. Um... And so I worked as a teacher's aide at one of the public schools in Brookline...Massachusetts.
161	BJ	Mm-hmm.
162	JP	And eventually, um, made some connections there. And, um...got a teaching position up there.