

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	Questions about...more specifically about language now have you heard of Pittsburghese?
2	KR	Mmm hmmm.
3	BJ	What would you say it is? How would you define it?
4	KR	...A - a language ((1-second pause)) particular to people that live...in this area
5	BJ	[Mm.]
6	KR	[A] way of saying words or a way of uh identifying items or places that=
7	BJ	=Mm-hmm=
8	KR	=Other people may not, you know, use.
9	BJ	Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Uh, what would be some of those words? You mentioned "slippy" before; your daughter saying slippy=
10	KR	[Mm hmmm.]=
11	BJ	And [the...people]
12	KR	["Redd up."] "I redd up the house."
13	BJ	[Mm-hmmm.]
14	KR	I don I don I...know I [do that ((laughing)).]
15	BJ	Mm-hmmm ((laughing)).
16	KR	Um...I don't know, um... "neby"?
17	BJ	Mmm.
18	KR	Is that, a, Pittsburghese? I don't know, people've ((1-second pause)) commented on that=
19	BJ	People comment on it, yeah, uh-huh?
20	KR	Um, "I run the sweeper."
21	BJ	Uh, there's, there's an interesting one, yeah, uh-huh, instead [of]
22	KR	[()] instead of [vacuuming]
23	BJ	[Vacuuming] yeah
24	KR	Yeah, I, I sweep, you [know]
25	BJ	[Mmm-hmm]
26	KR	[I run the]...sweeper...and that's...
27	BJ	You said you cut the grass. Some people think that's...a local thing. I don't really know=
28	KR	=Instead a mowing the lawn?= =Instead of mowing the lawn, [yeah].
29	BJ	[Well] my husband cuts the grass.
30	KR	[(laugh)]
31	BJ	[(laugh)]
32	KR	If you ask him, that's what he'll...he'll tell ya he [cuts]
33	BJ	[Yeah]
34	KR	The grass.=
35	BJ	=Uh-huh. So Pittsburghese for you is mostly words that...people use here that they don't necessarily use everywhere [else].

36	KR	[Right] and the pronunciation of some words. I know...um...they leave out...certain sounds, I think, like...SATH instead of=
37	BJ	Mm-hmmm=
38	KR	I know I do that; I know I say that.
39	BJ	Mm-hmm.
40	KR	SATHSIDE. [You know]
41	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
42	KR	I say SATHSIDE. [But] I know I do it.
43	BJ	[Mm-hmm.]
44	KR	[And]...I think that's part of Pittsburghese=
45	BJ	=Yeah. Are there any grammar things that are a Pittsburghese, that you ever run into?
46	KR	Well, the preposition thing I think, leaving out prepositions? Kids sometimes, um...uh ((3-second pause)) I can't even think of an [example].
47	BJ	[Mmm-hmm]
48	KR	But when they say them, I think, [that's, you know]
49	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
50	KR	Typical Pittsburgh when they say it, but I can't think of it...you know um... "The shirt needs IRONED."
51	BJ	Oh that, [mm-hmm]
52	KR	[That] type, you know, so [the]
53	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
54	KR	Things need to be ironed or they need, you know.
55	BJ	Do you actually teach=
56	KR	=You [tell them]
57	BJ	[The kids not to do that]
58	KR	But they don't. It doesn't register, even with – they don't even recognize that there's anything
59	BJ	Mm-hmm
60	KR	You know, they look at you like, "What?" ((Laughs))
61	BJ	((Laughs))
62	KR	That's...they grow up...that's, you know, the way I grew up, and
63	BJ	When did you realize that that was not=
64	KR	=When people called it to my attention. I, you know, other people called it to my attention, that=
65	BJ	=People from...other places?
66	KR	Mm-hmm.
67	BJ	Yeah. I think that's, t...very often what happens.
68	KR	I know that's what happened with my daughter up at Penn State. She had a lot of roommates and friends from New Jersey and Philadelphia and, and they would look at her like, you know, "I'm gonna run the sweeper," and they said, you know, you sweep with a broom, you vacuum with a=
69	BJ	=Uh-hah=

70	KR	=You know, that type of thing, or she'll say "Watch! This street's slippy.=
71	BJ	=Yeah.
72	KR	["Slippy?"] ((laughs))
73	BJ	[They say "slippy?" Yeah.] Uh-huh. Yeah, I think that's very interesting, that, so, when people go away, you know, that's, or when they start meeting people from other places, that's when
74	KR	Mm-hmm
75	BJ	These things start to register. Uh-huh.
76	KR	I don't know.
77	BJ	Yeah. It's interesting. I mean, I've talked to ((1-second pause)) uh, actually, a bunch of sixth- and seventh-graders from Lawrenceville who are, you know, very working-class kids, um, whose parents are...I mean, their whole <u>life</u> is just in Pittsburgh, if they go anywhere it's not very far away and...uh they...they were kind of totally mystified by...the whole idea of, Pittsburghese, because
78	KR	Hmm
79	BJ	They couldn't figure out what it would be. And...and it's because of this reason: nobody's ever really [called it to their attention]
80	KR	[Pointed it out to them.]
81	BJ	They've never really run into anyone who talked any different way, so...you know.
82	KR	I know.
83	BJ	And they will.
84	KR	"Anat"...people...
85	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
86	KR	[Yeah], this "anat."
87	BJ	Mm-hmm
88	KR	Shopping "anat." ((laughs))
89	BJ	((Laughs))
90	KR	And I'm...I'm sure I say that, I'm sure I do, I...
91	BJ	Pretty...I mean, when you say you, you use some of these Pittsburghese things all ((1-second pause)) Would [you]
92	KR	[N-]
93	BJ	[Say you] do it all the time or [just under]
94	KR	[No.] I I think I do it more when I'm with ((1-second pause)) family or friends, just
95	BJ	Mm-hmm
96	KR	Talking, and not...you know what I mean? When they're doing the same thing, I think [I]
97	BJ	[Yeah]
98	KR	When I'm less...aware of it, [and that]
99	BJ	[Mmm]
100	KR	But I'll <u>hear</u> it, and I'll say, I say it a lot of times I hear it.
101	BJ	Mm-hmm.

102	KR	And I think ((2-second pause)) but I know I do [it.]
103	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Why did you decide to go to that workshop that I gave...on Pittsburghese? Was that
104	KR	Well...well you know, there's act 48 hours we had to have ['em]
105	BJ	[Right. Mm-hmm. Right.]
106	KR	[But, you try] to find something that you think would be interesting, and I thought that would be interesting because
107	BJ	Mm-hmm
108	KR	I'm aware of...I mean, I'm aware of the whole
109	BJ	Mm-hmm
110	KR	...Pittsburghese <u>thing</u> . Other than, I mean, from my perspective of what I think it is, but...I learned a lot of things about the...the ethnic groups, and the...different...[than I]
111	BJ	[Good. Mmm]
112	KR	[Never thought] about that.
113	BJ	Good. But it's not really something that you need...need a whole lot for your work=
114	KR	=No.
115	BJ	= Yeah. I can i- ...imagine, uh-huh. Have you ever heard the term "yinzer?"
116	KR	No.
117	BJ	It's interesting that uh=
118	KR	= "You-inz," people say, I tell the kids, and (), you know, "YINZ is not the plural of you, you know, "All of 'you-inz'?"
119	BJ	Mm-hmm.
120	KR	I do tell them that. They'll say, you know, "all of 'you-inz,'" I think, ["you-inz?"]
121	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Where do those kids come from? Are they sort of...[wealthy]
122	KR	[Sewickley], some of them are.
123	BJ	Huh
124	KR	Some of them aren't, but...Sewickley, Moon
125	BJ	Mm-hmm=
126	KR	=Up down the Beaver Valley [there].
127	BJ	[Uh-huh.] Must be a...a kind of a mix of kids from different backgrounds.
128	KR	Right. Some very wealthy kids, some [v-]
129	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
130	KR	Ahh...parents ((1-second pause)) very, you know, professional...doctors, maybe, both parents are doctors
131	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
132	KR	[Doctor lawyer]...you know, one's a...a C, a CFO for Heinz, you know, I mean, there's people there that are
133	BJ	Mm-hmm
134	KR	But it's just a

135	BJ	So, but do all, do all the kids say “you-inz,” or=
136	KR	=No, not all of them, but I [mean, a lot of them]
137	BJ	[Mm-hmm...(some of them do)]
138	KR	And none of them are shocked by it, none of them are just like
139	BJ	Mm-hmm
140	KR	Doesn’t...you know, it’s not...
141	BJ	They’re used to here. They’ve been hearing it [all their] life
142	KR	[Mm-hmm]
143	BJ	Whether or not [they]
144	KR	[Right.]
145	BJ	Do it themselves.
146	KR	Right. Well, some are...kids that are new to the area...that have moved here from other, they are conscious of it, and they will comment, they’ll make...comments about the way people talk here.
147	BJ	Hmm.
148	KR	Because they don’t talk that way, they’re from
149	BJ	Mmm-hmm
150	KR	Ohio, which seems to me to be...kind of neutral, I don’t know, it sounds like they [uh]
151	BJ	[Well that’s] what they think, I mean it’s just everybody has an accent of some kind or another, but...the one that...people in...central Ohio have just sounds sort of neutral to people.
152	KR	[Hmm]
153	BJ	[Doesn’t] really get remarked on the same way.
154	KR	Well...I was saying about my daughter, uh she...had a man from, uh...India...
155	BJ	Mmm
156	KR	Had a child in kindergarten, and he...approached my daughter and asked her if he would...if she would tutor...her little...his little boy...in speech, because he wanted his son to talk like her, he liked ((laughs))
157	BJ	He liked the way...[she talked.]
158	KR	[He liked] the way she talked, and he wanted...[the]
159	BJ	[Huh]
160	KR	Little boy to have her speech pattern to talk, and she said
161	BJ	((Laughs))
162	CB	Naah, she couldn’t do that, you know, but
163	BJ	Hmm-mmm
164	KR	She thought that was interesting=
165	BJ	=That <u>is</u> interesting, yeah, [uh-huh.]
166	KR	[If you wanted] the little boy to talk like her, because ()...he didn’t want her...he didn’t want the...the, the boy to have a southern accent, have a drawl=
167	BJ	=Mm-hmm. Well, good luck to him, because kids learn their accents from other kids, not [from]

168	KR	((Laughs)) [I] I know, that's whatn she says and you know, living with two parents who don't speak English much
169	BJ	Mm-hmm
170	KR	You know, nothing I could do would...
171	BJ	No, it's gonna be his peers in school, [I mean]
172	KR	[Mm-hmm]
173	BJ	Why would you wanna sound like some...speech pathologist?
174	KR	((Laughs))
175	BJ	If you're a kid you wanna sound like other kids! ((Laughs)) Yeah...people have weird ideas about...but they realize how important it is. I mean even those...those parents are kind of...tuned into how important people's accents are.
176	KR	Right. [Yeah, he doesn't]
177	BJ	[Even] though they don't quite understand how it works.=
178	KR	=Right. He wants him to grow up with...(not) a SOUTHERN ACCENT, (not) a DRAWL, whatever that['s called.]
179	BJ	[Yeah.] Mm-hmm. Have you ever run into any of the uh, other things about Pittsburghese besides in the workshop? Uh, have you ever seen ((1-second pause)) like...Pittsburghese written down anyplace?
180	KR	Just on a mug.
181	BJ	On a mug?
182	KR	The the seen those mugs with the words written on [the]
183	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
184	KR	"Jumbo" and "babushka" and things like [that.]
185	BJ	[Right.] Uh-huh...yeah.
186	KR	Other than that, I can't [think]
187	BJ	[(That's the that's)] (about it). You ever seen a little...little book called <i>How to Speak Like a Pittsburgher</i> ?
188	KR	Mm-hmm
189	BJ	It's all ()
190	KR	((Laughs))
191	BJ	It's been in print continuously since 1982. It's one of the most...
192	KR	Really?=-
193	BJ	=It's amazing. [I mean]
194	KR	=[Wh- why] would anyone want
195	BJ	I=-
196	KR	=To do that?
197	BJ	Um...I am would I'm...gonna be...I'm <u>very</u> interested to find out why=-
198	KR	=You know uh=-
199	BJ	=They...what the history of [it was], but it's very popular. People buy it in tourist shops, they send it to...they send they buy it and they send it to their friends who have moved away as kind of a souvenir [or a]

200	KR	[I get] emails every once in awhile from a friend of mine I grew up with in (Glassport) who lives in Houston and...it's one...it's the type of email that says, "You're from Pittsburgh if..." [and it's]
201	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
202	KR	That type of thing. If you know, you know, different things=
203	BJ	=If you know what "jumbo" is=
204	KR	=Right. If you, you know...I can't [even remember]
205	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
206	KR	But...different things, [you know]
207	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
208	KR	And I just laugh, and...because I know these things ((laughing)) [but]
209	BJ	(((Laughs)) Yeah.) Yeah, there was a, every year there is a Pittsburghese version of ((1-second pause)) "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." (Have) you ever seen that? That goes, circulates around by email. You'll get it eventually, you know, it's...like...it's in the system=
210	KR	=I like that commercial on TV where the girl for the car commercial, I don't even know, she was...
211	BJ	I've never seen that one.
212	KR	It was on the radio more, and she's talking um ((1-second pause)) about buying a car in...in Pittsburgh=
213	BJ	=[[Mm-hmm]]
214	KR	[And] she's talking in...classic Pittsburgh, I mean, I don't <u>know</u> anyone that talks [that way.]
215	BJ	[Yeah.]
216	KR	=But, it was on the radio couple years ago [at the time]
217	BJ	[Oh]
218	KR	And she...with Myron Cope, I [think]
219	BJ	[Oh yeah]=
220	KR	=Was the, was the other person on the
221	BJ	(((Laughs))
222	KR	And he made some comment about the way she talked, you know, [about her]
223	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
224	KR	But uh, "anat," I remember saying, "anat."
225	BJ	(((Laughs)) Yeah. Yeah.
226	KR	You'd have to be from Pittsburgh to appreciate the commercial. I'm sure it just ran here and no [one else would get it, I don't think]
227	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
228	KR	But it was a car thing, it was for some...I think car place on West Liberty Avenue, [so]
229	BJ	[Ah, yeah]
230	KR	[Some]...car dealership.
231	BJ	Mm-hmm. Hmm. Okay, just uh just one more thing here uh for each of the fin- ((1-second pause)) following words I'll just give you a

		word and ask you if you use it or if you know of people who use it and many of these we've already talked about, so "yinz" or "you-inz" (you)...uh...
232	KR	I try not to use [it]
233	BJ	[Try not to use it]
234	KR	[Try not to use it but I hear it.]
235	BJ	Did you grow up...using it, [do you think?]
236	KR	[Yes.] I'm sure [I did.]
237	BJ	[Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.] Um, and the...that "car needs washed," "leftovers need eaten" thing, [you]
238	KR	["Car needs washed," uh-huh.]
239	BJ	[Did that growing up too?]
240	KR	And I hear that a lot too.
241	BJ	Huh. You probably don't...
242	KR	I think I use it, I'm sure I do.
243	BJ	Uh-huh. When you're not really thinking=
244	KR	=Uhaah, just ["Car needs washed." "The shirt needs ironed."]
245	BJ	[Mm. Uh-huh.] You said ["redd up."]
246	KR	["Hair needs] washed."
247	BJ	((Laughs))
248	KR	I "redd up." I do "redd up."
249	BJ	Mm-hmm. Um, and "anat?" How 'bout...do you [actually use that?]
250	KR	[Probably.] I don't know, but I'm...I probably do, [unconsciously.]
251	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] What about a "grinney?" Have you ever heard of a "grinney?"
252	KR	(It's) a little chipmunk? Lady I worked with, she used to talk about "grinneys." I, I don't use [it]
253	BJ	[You didn't]
254	KR	Use it, but I...I knew what it, I know what it is.
255	BJ	How did, how did she know about it, do you think?
256	KR	I don't know. [She's...]
257	BJ	[Was...] was she from the country, or was she from...
258	KR	She was from Sewickley.
259	BJ	Oh.
260	KR	But she (used to talk) 'bout the "grinney" on her back patio, and I said, "What's a 'grinney'?" And she said, "It's a chipmunk."
261	BJ	((Laughs)) Oh. It is an old local word...for a chipmunk and...it's interesting, it's...not many people <u>from</u> actual Pittsburgh know it. It's more people from the...[who have connections with the]
262	KR	[I only]
263	BJ	More rural areas who know [(about) the]
264	KR	[I] only know it because she used [it]
265	BJ	[Yeah]
266	KR	[But] I didn't know what it meant until I asked her what a "grinney"... "What's a 'grinney'?"

267	BJ	Hmm. What about “Picksburgh?” When people say [“Picksburgh?”]
268	KR	[That] gets right through me, I just hate that.
269	BJ	Who is it that’s, I mean, do you have a [do you (identify it with)?]
270	KR	[I hear it on] just on TV, athletes, or...people that, you know, are...some inner city people, maybe, they LIVE IN “PICKSBURGH?” That just sets my teeth on [edge I]
271	BJ	[Yeah]
272	KR	I don’t know why...they can’t say “Pittsburgh.” What’s so difficult about the “t”?
273	BJ	I’m not sure what’s=
274	KR	=I had a student uh...a girl...a African American girl that grew up in the city, and she’s part of Girl’s Hope, I don’t know if you’re familiar with [that]
275	BJ	[Mmm-hmm]
276	KR	But they take these girls that they think have...they take them out of their home, put them [in]
277	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
278	KR	Whatever. And <u>she</u> used to say that, “PICKSBURGH”=
279	BJ	“Picksburgh”=
280	KR	=Or AXE ME. That...that’s another [thing]
281	BJ	[That’s another] thing. It’s not exactly the same thing, but it’s ((1-second pause)) (it might [be related])
282	KR	[And] <u>that</u> really...I used to...I used to [constantly]
283	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
284	KR	Call that...her her attention to that. It’s...you don’t [AXE]
285	BJ	[Mm-hmm]
286	KR	You “ask.” [You know?]
287	BJ	[Mm]
288	KR	You just don’t...it’s not “PICKSBURGH.”
289	BJ	Mm-hmm. Yeah, it’s interesting. It’s a different thing going on, I mean, in ah-, I mean, in “axe,” it’s just transposing two sounds, but in “PICKSBURGH” it’s substituting...a “k” for a “t” so ((1-second pause)) that’s a different kind [of]
290	KR	[I...I ()]
291	BJ	Slightly different thing. I don’t, I don’t get it myself. I don’t understand. There’s no reason from a linguistic point of view to think it would be easier to say it that way than...the other way or anything like that so
292	KR	I don’t understand it.=
293	BJ	=Yeah. Okay. If you uh...