

Turn	Speaker	Lines
1	BJ	Have you ever heard of Pittsburghese?
2	JW	((1 second pause)) Yes=
3	BJ	=You have=
4	JW	=Yes=
5	BJ	=Okay. Um, what do you think it is?
6	JW	((1 second pause)) It's, [uh...]
7	BJ	[And] how would you describe it?
8	JW	Yeah, I- It's- it's the dialect that people use, uh, to... ((2 second pause)) In- in Pittsburgh.
9	BJ	What is [it ()...]
10	JW	[Like we-] we cut our words sh- short, uh, we mispronounce a lot of words, we slur words together.
11	BJ	Mm-hmm.
12	JW	Like, um...well, I- I don't know, I'm going to spoil your thunder or take...or whatever, but, uh, I say, "NORTHSIDE," "SOUTHSIDE," "EAST LIBERTY."
13	BJ	Mm-hmm.
14	JW	And people from out of town...often ask me to repeat what I said.
15	BJ	((Intake of breath)) Because- How would they say, "NORTHSIDE"?
16	JW	"North Side"=
17	BJ	= "North Side." Uh-huh.
18	JW	"South Side." "East Lib-er-ty."
19	BJ	((Laughs))
20	JW	((Laughs))
21	BJ	Okay. What else- Is it- So it's mostly pronunciations, you'd say? ((1 second pause)) Pittsburghese is mostly pronunciations=
22	JW	=Pronunciations, and plus the fact that we...we end our words too soon.
23	BJ	((2 second pause)) Oh. Can you give me an example of that? ((1 second pause)) Like... "EAST LIBERTY," is that one of the...?
24	JW	Yeah, (I'd say) "East," we say "EAS."
25	BJ	Oh, I see. Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) So, you, wh-... You use some of these things sometimes?
26	JW	All the [time.] ((Laughs))
27	BJ	[Yourself.] ((Laughs)) All the time?
28	JW	All- ((Laughs)) Well, frequently.
29	BJ	Mm-hmm.
30	JW	If I'm making a conscious effort not to use them ((2 second pause)) then I'll- I'll know not to use them.

31	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) So how did you...find out that you...spoke this dialect? Did some- Was there some point where somebody said, you know, You talk funny, or, You talk differently than me, or...something, or...?
32	JW	Uh, yeah. My parents would talk about that, how- how we would talk funny, and people from out-of-town ((2 second pause)) would, uh, point out the differences. Or if they went to, say- Like my mother had cousins in Detroit.
33	BJ	Mm-hmm.
34	JW	If they went to- If she went to Detroit to, uh...
35	BJ	They'd talk=
36	JW	=They- they would talk funny, and ((1 second pause)) each...each cousin would laugh at the other one.
37	BJ	Uh-huh. ((Laughs)) You didn't have the experience yourself, but your mother...did.
38	JW	Yes. [Yes.]
39	BJ	[Yeah.] Mm-hmm.
40	JW	Yes, well, I- I have a new friend, uh... I've shown her Pittsburgh.
41	BJ	Mm-hmm.
42	JW	Just- just a couple weeks ago, and she was laughing at me.
43	BJ	((Laughs))
44	JW	So...
45	BJ	Oh, you said that, when we talked on the phone.
46	JW	Yes.
47	BJ	Yeah. What was she laughing about? Did- Can you remember, or...?
48	JW	"NORTHSIDE." ((Laughs))
49	BJ	((Laughs)) ('Cause) she's not from Pittsburgh?
50	JW	She's not from Pittsburgh, no.
51	BJ	Uh-huh. Uh-huh. ((Intake of breath)) Have you ever heard the term "YINZER"? ((1 second pause)) A "YINZER"?
52	JW	Not "YINZER," "YINZ."
53	BJ	"YINZ." You've heard "YINZ."
54	JW	"YINZ."
55	BJ	Yeah, but [you've] not heard...
56	JW	[I've-] I've never heard "YINZER"=
57	BJ	= "YINZER." ((Intake of breath)) ((Papers shuffling)) [Is it-]
58	JW	[I've heard], uh, also "YIZ," and "YOUZ."
59	BJ	Here?
60	JW	Yes.
61	BJ	I mean, I- I have too. Uh-huh. Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) So, who says what? Who says which of those? I mean, are there any differences, like ethnic differences, or [age differences? Mm-hmm.]
62	JW	[I- I- I] can't tell...if there- if there are.
63	BJ	Mm-hmm.

64	JW	I'm not the linguist. ((Laughs))
65	BJ	Mm, yeah. ((Laughs)) Well, some people have very...strong opinions about these [things], whether they really know or not. Yeah. ((Intake of breath)) Um- Uh, so have ever seen any of the... anything with Pittsburghese written on it?
66	JW	[Yes.] Yes I saw, uh... There's a T-shirt, (about, uh...) There's a couple little booklets, that talk about Pittsburghese.
67	BJ	Mm-hmm.
68	JW	Um...let me see. I've probably saw other things. I just-
69	BJ	((Coughs))
70	JW	I just don't [remember] them at th- at th- this point in time.
71	BJ	[Yeah.] Yeah, there's- I mean, there are little shot-glasses you could get, there's...[you know...]
72	JW	[Yes, you know], shot-glasses, I saw those=
73	BJ	=Mug- Mugs=
74	JW	=Beer mugs.
75	BJ	Yeah. That kind of- You know, all the typical souvenir things, you know. ((Intake of breath)) So who do you think likes those things?
76	JW	Pittsburghers. ((Laughs))
77	BJ	Re- Yeah?
78	JW	Or "YINZERS." ((Laughs))
79	BJ	((Laughs)) "YINZERS." Uh-huh.
80	JW	New word I just picked up for my vocabulary.
81	BJ	((Laughs)) Well good. Yeah, I don't...want to...destroy your vocabulary here, but... That's actually a new- a fairly new word, I think, that people haven't...been using for very long. But you can imagine what it means. I mean, [it's the] sort of a word for the stereotypical...person with a local accent who's, uh...
82	JW	[Yeah, it's-] Probably somebody from out of town.
83	BJ	((2 second pause)) Who- No. Somebody from out of town would say it, you mean, or=
84	JW	=Call us...Pittsburghers, "YINZERS."
85	BJ	Yeah, I think it's- I think it was probably...people from out of town, or people who had moved out of town- Pittsburghers who had moved out of town, and... ((2 second pause)) Um... A lot of young people...know this word. I mean, young Pittsburghers know this word and they use it to talk about...to categorize their friends and, you know... It's not necessarily a bad word, but it, you know, of course it depends who's saying about [whom], whether it's a bad word or not.
86	JW	[Yes.] Yeah.
87	BJ	Yeah.
88	JW	I wouldn't consider it a bad word, no matter what.
89	BJ	Well... ((2 second pause)) Well, you know, it could be an insult if you were... if you felt insulted by it, you know, I mean...

90	JW	Mm-hmm.
91	BJ	So you've heard the word "YINZ," and you said some other forms of that, too. How about "YINZ GUYS"? Is that a...Pittsburgh thing?
92	JW	Yes.
93	BJ	Yeah?
94	JW	As far as I know.
95	BJ	Mm-hmm=
96	JW	=Yes. As is "REDD UP." No, "REDD UP" I- I was told it came from Northern Ireland.
97	BJ	Yeah, well, so does "YINZ." I mean...
98	JW	I didn't know that.
99	BJ	Mm-hmm. Most of the things that are... Most of the <u>words</u> that- that are kind of distinctive around here are actually from Northern Ireland.
100	JW	((2 second pause)) Makes sense.
101	BJ	Yeah. It does make sense. I mean, when you think about who spoke English around here first, and...
102	JW	Mm-hmm.
103	BJ	What other kind of English was anybody else going to learn besides...the kind of English that those people spoke? ((Intake of breath)) Um... How about ((2 second pause)) uh, if somebody...was trying to get their kid to mow the lawn, they might say, "The lawn needs mowed," or, "The lawn needs cut." ((1 second pause)) Does that...sound like the...[normal way to say it?]
104	JW	[Yeah...we-] we always say, "Mow the lawn."
105	BJ	Mm-hmm. "Mow the lawn," not "cut." Yeah.
106	JW	No, I've never [heard] "cut the lawn," but...
107	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm. ((Intake of breath)) If somebody said, "The leftovers need eating," or "The...[shirts need washed,]" or [whatever. That's... just normal.]
108	JW	[Yes, I've heard that.] [Yes, I've also] heard, "Shirts need WORSHED."
109	BJ	"WORSHED."
110	JW	"WORSHED."
111	BJ	Uh-huh... Or=
112	JW	=In my family, I think we always said "washed."
113	BJ	"Washed." ((Intake of breath)) Some people s- s- talk, say that people say, "WUSHED."
114	JW	"WUSHED." I've heard "WUSHED."
115	BJ	Yeah. I don't- I don't know who says- who does it what way, I... want to find out. ((Intake of breath)) Um, how about a "GRINNY"? Have you ever heard of a "GRINNY"?
116	JW	No. I've- I read it in one of the books.
117	BJ	Yeah? But you didn't know that word?= =

118	JW	=I never heard that word. [I've] never heard it being used, I...
119	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] That's interesting. I- Not very many... Pittsburghers have ever heard that word, but...
120	JW	Mm-hmm.
121	BJ	A few people have. I think maybe it was a- kind of more of a country word.
122	JW	It may have been, uh... When- when I first saw the book and I was reading it, uh, the first one, I think I was in high school...at the time, and I went to Schenley High School, as I mentioned [earlier], there were a lot of African-American...uh, kids in the class.
123	BJ	[Mm-hmm.] Mm-hmm.
124	JW	And one of the kids says, That's what the blacks...call...
125	BJ	Really?
126	JW	Yeah.
127	BJ	"GRINNY"?
128	JW	"GRINNY," yes.
129	BJ	Huh. What about "PICKSBURGH"?
130	JW	"PICKSBURGH." Same way, it was, uh... I've heard...mostly African-Americans use "PICKSBURGH."
131	BJ	Uh-huh. ((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) And what about "N'AT"? When people say, "I like swimming N'AT," or...?
132	JW	Oh, yes. I heard...
133	BJ	Yeah.
134	JW	Yeah. ((Laughs)) Yeah.
135	BJ	Everybody does that?
136	JW	Everybody does that.
137	BJ	Yeah. Uh-huh. It's like, "et cetera," you know, "and so on," whatever. Mm-hmm. ((Papers shuffling)) ((1 second pause)) Okay, um=
138	JW	=Also- also, uh, we use a lot... "These ones"- or, "DEES ONES," and "DOSE ONES."
139	BJ	Oh yeah.
140	JW	Instead of "these" and "those."
141	BJ	Mm-hmm.
142	JW	And "DEM ONES."
143	BJ	"DEM ONES." ((1 second pause)) For "these"- for "those"-
144	JW	Uh, "DEE"- "DEES ONES" and "DOSE ONES" are "these" and "those." And "DEM ONES" are "them."
145	BJ	Oh. Mm-hmm. Yeah. ((2 second pause)) Hmm, where does that come from, do you...?
146	JW	I got no idea.
147	BJ	((2 second pause)) I don't know. Some of these things- Some of these pronunciation things are ((2 second pause)) ((Intake of breath)) possibly from other languages. The influence of other languages.

148	JW	Yes.
149	BJ	((Intake of breath)) So, I mean, there were lots of languages, like- I think maybe Polish is one, but I'm not sure. Where they didn't have a sound "the"...
150	JW	That's- [that's true.]
151	BJ	[And they] just substituted "DA," instead, because that was...the easiest thing to do.
152	JW	It's true. Uh- uh. Matter of fact I've heard, uh, some of the older generation...speak without using...articles.
153	BJ	Oh, [that-]
154	JW	[Like] instead of going "down the street," they- they go "down street."
155	BJ	So you think that's from, like, [Polish, or whatever...]
156	JW	[That's- that's] definitely Polish, 'cause it's always the Polish people.
157	BJ	Oh, in- That's interesting.
158	JW	Yeah.
159	BJ	((Intake of breath)) I mean, you were telling me on the phone that...there's some street names that are...
160	JW	Yes, [uh...]
161	BJ	[Distinctive.]
162	JW	Yes. And again, it's...it was the Polish people that I heard speaking it, uh... Instead of "Charlotte Street," it's "CHAR-LOT-EH"- "CHAR-LOT-E STREET."
163	BJ	Mm-hmm.
164	JW	Instead of... "Brereton Avenue," it's "BUR-TON AVENUE." Instead of "BEETHOVEN," it's "BAYTH-HOVEN."
165	BJ	"BAYTH-HOVEN." ((1 second pause)) Huh. That's in Polish Hill, right?
166	JW	It's in Polish Hill. Yes.
167	BJ	Mm-hmm. ((1 second pause)) Huh. It's interesting.
168	JW	And, incidentally, it is the people from Polish Hill who use "BAYTH-HOVEN," and "BUR-TON."
169	BJ	"BURTON." ((2 second pause)) What's the- How do you spell that?
170	JW	I think it's "B," "R"... "E"... "R," "E," "T," "O," "N."
171	BJ	Oh, yeah. Okay. I know what [it mean-] Mm-hmm. "Brereton." But they say, "BURTON," instead of... They leave one of the "R's" out, or...
172	JW	["Brereton."] Yes.
173	BJ	Uh-huh.
174	JW	Comes out sounding like "B," "U," "R," "T," "O," "N."
175	BJ	Right. Uh-huh.