

Academic English 9 – Dialect Fun!

Names: _____ Period: _____

Do you speak Pittsburghese? Pittsburghese--the dialect and lingo spoken by native Pittsburghers.

"Listen, yinz, ta this story. Last Mundy, when I got home from dahntahn Picksburg, I redded up the hahse, worshed the clothes and did the arning, n'at. Then I decided ta take a break coz I was gettin' rilly hungry. I looked ina fridge, but it needed stocked. Alls I had was butterbread and leftover city chicken. No jumbo, no chipped ham, no kolbassi.

So I headed aht to the store. I got me a buggy and picked up a hoagie, some pop and a duzn eggs in case I wanted dippy ones in the mornin'. When I got back home, I headed aht to set by the crick ta eat in peace and quiet. Just as I was gonna take a bite a my sammich, my nebbly neighbor, Shurl, shows up, wantin' ta know how I been. Whiles we're chattin', I see a grinny sneak up and start nibblin' on my mill. I tried ta chase him, but the grass was slippy, and I fell in ta the jaggerbushes. I never been so frustrated."

With a partner translate the paragraphs above into more proper English! Use the space provided below:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Places

Nore-syde: North Side (where the city's football and baseball stadiums, new casino, several museums, and science center are located)

Sahth-syde: South Side (where you go to drink—period)

Dahn-tahn: Downtown (home to the city's theaters and fancier restaurants)

Gine Iggle: Giant Eagle (chain grocery store that will most likely be in your neighborhood)

Vocabulary

Yinz: You all (Pittsburgh version of y'all)

Chipped-chopped: Thinly sliced deli meat (usually refers to Isley's ham)

Sweep: To vacuum (confusing, I know)

Nebby: Nosy (noun form: **Neb-nose**)

Underguchies: Underwear

Pop: Soda (and we will die before calling it anything else)

Gumband: Rubber band (unlike most of the words on this list, most native Pittsburghers will not know what the generally accepted synonym for this word is)

Stillers: Pittsburgh Steelers (our NFL team—to be safe, you should probably own one piece of team paraphernalia to prove you're not a Browns fan)

Bucs: Pittsburgh Pirates (our admittedly terrible MLB team...but *not* rooting for them is a Burgher faux pas of infinite proportions)

Pittsburgh Salad: A salad with fries gloriously dumped on top of it

Worsh: To wash

Phrases

Red Up: To clean up or tidy up a room or one's appearance.

N'at: And that (used at the end of sentences to replace "and so on" and its counterparts)

These ones/Those ones: These/those (we know it's grammatically incorrect, but grammar isn't really important when it comes to talking like a native)

Jeet Jet?: Did you eat yet?