



University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst

## Concord 1

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*This is a transcription of the audio files of Concord 1.*

### **Spontaneous Speech**

*This audio file contains responses to a series of questions, which are labelled as Questions 1-8 and Prompt 1-5 within the audio file folder.*

#### **Question 1: How would you define a 'community'? What community (or communities) are you a part of?**

I would define a community as a group of people, either in the same location or area or they have something in common, whether that be a profession, hobby, or something else like that. For communities I'm a part of, I would say one would be where I live. So I live in the Boston city area. Another community would be my alumni association for my college, which is very large in the city. Another community would be my work, so my team in my office is a big part of my community. And those are some examples.

#### **Question 2: Do you believe that you're a member of your hometown's community, and to what degree?**

I would say I'm very generally still a part of my hometown's community in that I visit my hometown at least once a month, once a month or so. And I will go to local stores and shops and walk along public trails and make use of the town in that way. So in that way, I'm contributing to parts of the town and using different, um, public facilities or private owned stores. And I also still keep in touch with family and friends in the area and am connected to communities from my high school online in that way.

#### **Question 3: Do you see yourself living in your hometown for the foreseeable future, or returning if you've left? Why or why not?**

I could see myself living in my hometown in the future. I had a really great upbringing, a great childhood. I loved my town. I thought it was a great community of people with, uh, strong morals and values and education. And people were generally nice and empathetic to each other. One reason I would not want to live there in the future is running into people from my

past. I feel like I would rather have a new experience than kind of revert, revert back to where I grew up. But honestly, it was a great place to live, so I've considered it pretty highly.

**Question 4: Are you proud to be from your hometown? What about to be from Massachusetts?**

I would say I am definitely proud to be from my hometown, just because it's a historical, well-known location that, um, not only has a lot of history to it, and, um, a lot of meaning in that way, but it also has a great education system. And I think it's a great, um, community of people with great values. So I am proud to say I'm from my hometown, and from Massachusetts very similarly. I think Massachusetts, it's very progressive, well educated place to live. And I'm happy to be here and happy that I grew up here and didn't grow up somewhere else. I have no regrets living here at all.

**Question 5: What do you think of Massachusetts speech?**

It wasn't until I went to college in Pennsylvania that I heard that Massachusetts people speak a little differently, if that's what this question is referring to. Whether it just be pronunciations of certain words like the word room for bedroom and words like, um, like rotary, uh I don't know, other words like that I think are kind of distinguishable. But, um, apart from the Boston accent, I don't think it's drastically different than other places.

**Question 6: Would you take it as a compliment if someone told you that you sounded like you were from Massachusetts?**

I think the only times I've heard this is from people when I was in college and. Uh, I didn't take it as a compliment, but it was I enjoyed hearing it because not a lot of people were from Massachusetts from my college, so I kind of liked having, um, that fact about me be a little bit different than other people and have, um, kind of people notice it something to talk about and it does kind of reflect that I am from there and since I'm proud to be there, it does act as an indicator of, um, being from there, if people notice you talk in certain ways that are specific to Massachusetts.

**Question 7: Could you tell if someone came from Massachusetts by the way they spoke?**

**What if they weren't from Boston?**

If they weren't from Boston, I think I would have a hard time telling if someone was from Massachusetts, just by the way that they spoke. I don't think we have a super specific way of speaking or at least I don't notice it that much. Um, it would only be if like we're already on the topic of different ways of speaking, depending on where you are geographically but otherwise no.

**Question 8: Have you ever tried to change the way you talk? If so, in what way?**

In college, I did, my roommate did tell me that I said room instead of room, so I did start trying to say it differently after that. Um, but since then, I kind of regretted trying to do that, so I think I've reverted back to saying it how I used to, but, um, I did feel a little bit self-conscious there. And I think in college, I also stopped saying wicked as much, which wasn't something I would say a lot, but once you say it once or twice, people do ask if you're from Boston.

*Any highlighted portions of the following transcripts are to signify where the participant deviated from the written script, italicized are the words they intended to say, and red signifies omissions.*

**Prompt 1: Wedding Story**

It was the morning of Tammy and Ken's wedding day. The event was to take place at the church in Kerry, with live music and some of their favorite psalms from the Bible. Tammy got ready with her bridesmaids, Kim, Maddie, Pat, and Pam, at the spa. Once she was calm and relaxed, she went to put on her [pure] white dress. She waited on (as) her pomeranian, Perry, brought the ring down to her future husband, hence beginning the ceremony with a cute and memorable moment. When she was ready, her father, Tim, walked her through the door into the church. She had dreamt of this day since before she could even remember, and soon she would be married. As she approached him, she saw the tears in his eyes, and it assured her that he was her soul mate. As they kissed, cheers erupted from both sides of the family. The reception was held at the local farm, with a barn dance and games for the guests. At the dinner,

everyone ate amazing food and drank sparkling cider. Ken's best friend Matt told her embarrassing stories about the pair. Afterward, Tammy and Ken danced the night away surrounded by their family and friends. It was a day they would never forget.

### **Prompt 2: Christmas Shopping**

During the Christmas season, Mary goes to the commerce center in Boston every week. So far, she has bought several sheer shirts, a new purse, some flared jeans, a lip balm, and a scarf with fringe. She went to the supermarket too, and filled her cart with a nice sherry wine, a lager, a lot of gin, and some pre-mixed mimosas. She plans on getting a goose-feather coat and mittens from (for) her cousin Sharon, and a Dr. Seuss book for her niece Ruth, who is just a tike. She has to buy for many people, but her ten-year-old brother Darren is the hardest of them all. He often hints that he wants a pricey camera, but that costs too much for Mary and no store has it in stock. He is a narcissist, and he wore a varsity jacket to school, with a black hem and collar. He dyes his unkempt hair a dark charcoal black, and his attitude apparently varies between moody and sarcastic. When Mary sought out a gift for him, everything felt wrong. The mountain boots were too tight for his right foot, or the soles were too flat. The linen bucket hat was too loose, the taffy was caustic, the strawberries were too tangy, the fountain pen was too thin, and the cuff links were too hard. "The length of time I put in should count for something," she whispered- whispered to herself as she ate salt and vinegar chips in the mall cafeteria, "Darren knows I care about him." Finally, she found a cherry red jacket spangled with black gems that made sense with Darren's arrogant personality. It would be a merry Christmas after all, with a large ham, dairy-free rice pudding, and a tasty apple tart. And Darren thought the jacket was rad, which was a min, win for Mary.

### **Prompt 3: Colton's Vacation**

Colton has been on a tour of the world. First, he went to the Southern half of California. The public transpit- transport was bad, so he ran instead. There were beautiful palm trees along the roads, as well as lemon, lavender, and alfalfa farms. Then, he endured a long drive to Northern Canada, where they called their one [dollar] cents "loonies". There, he saw many moose and rowed down a river in a canoe. At one point, he almost lost his oar, but he kept paddling! His

planner was messed up, because next, he went to Alabama. He cleaned manure from the horse stables and watered their freshly mown grass. He built them a new fence to protect the animals from venomous mushroom spores. After that, he rested in a dimly lit hotel on the Thimble Islands, where he got a free tin of mints. His fourth stop on the tour was the Azores, where he was awed by their beautiful lagoons and their native canary (*mis-pronounced*) birds. Next, he went to the mangrove forests in India to the tiger dens. They had long fangs and would savagely tear deer limb from limb. He also got to see the red pandas and big rams at their zoo. Australia allured Colton. He slept in a cot in the middle of the outback, and got to hang out with kangaroos at dawn. He also tanned his pale skin on the sandy beach. With the rising tide, the sharks came closer to shore, and just the sight of their fins scared people off. His last stop was Ireland. They taught him some of their slang, like how a sot was a drunk person and how lad meant pal. He got to pet some lambs, and he drank beer at a tavern in Derry. On the narrow path to the airport, the bus tire popped with a bang. It sounded like a bomb had gone off, letting the air out fast. It needed to be towed. **He moaned as well-** he moaned as he used all his strength to carry his belongings to the nearby ferry. Overall, he would do it all over again.

#### **Prompt 4: Sarah's Bad Day**

It was a bothersome day in California. Sarah was having a terrible day. Her sheets were pulled so taut that it took several minutes to get out of bed. When she made her lunch, she cored the apple wrong, revealing the maggots near the pit so she had to put it in the farrow's bin for them to eat. Then, she had to dissect a toad with a knife in science class (she was terrified of knives!). At lunch, she accidentally put salt on her dessert instead of sugar and her peers laughed. She mashed it up in frustration. On her way home, the clear sky disappeared and a large storm replaced it, soaking her down to her socks. To top it off, when she got home, her cat Harold had caught a rat and was rudely biting it in the living room. The poor mammal had lost his life without a fair fight! **After got she,** after she got her bearings, she confided in her **kindergarten** (*kindergartener*) sister Jen. Her caring sister shared **her** in her mourning of the dead rat, but told her to stay positive. After all, **it at least was** (*at least it wasn't*) the mice like last time. This gave Sarah comfort, and they read folklore stories together until the sun set and the moon came out.

### Prompt 5: Ominous Caller

When the war began, Jim was a young man in Milton, Massachusetts. He couldn't be drafted, since his leg had been cut off by a snare. Instead, he worked at the Boston Herald, where he took hints from callers. He would always demonstrate caution; he couldn't roll the dice and see if the tip was true. He would bide his time by lurking in the background, collecting evidence. As a reporter, Jim was basically a stalker and he played the part well. He donned a black coat to blend in. Jim was sitting in his chair by the cord telephone when it rang. It was an odd hoarse voice.

The voice sang tersely: "The vice president is an enemy of the country."

Jim paused. Hal Samson was an important man who had a hand in many affairs, but he wouldn't dare risk getting sacked from his job, however temporary it was. At the most recent rally, his banner read, 'Usher in **the** (*a*) new era! From this day forth, no more robots!'. Jim had met him and wasn't a fan, but Hal was nimble and certainly never seemed to be heartless. His advisor, Sal, wouldn't allow him to make such an error. The voice sensed Jim's hesitation.

"He has a pact with China to lend **him** (*them*) his charity proceeds. There's no time to tarry."

Jim explained that the caller would get a small prize if the tip was on the nose.

She laughed. "I'm a miser, I don't need your money."

And then she hung up. Jim knew he had to talk to his boss, but, first, he had to go to the nurse. His head was spinning.