



University of  
Massachusetts  
Amherst

## Amherst 1

Item Type	Recording, oral
Download date	2026-06-10 06:34:58
Link to Item	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/8505">https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14394/8505</a>

*This is a transcription of the audio files of Amherst 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 guess I would define a community as a collection of people with a shared identity, um whether that's based on physical location, um culture, language, um just self-identity. Um, for me personally, I am part of a community of medical practitioners. Um, I'm part of a community of Asian-Americans, um and I'm part of a local community of my neighborhood and the people I physically live around.

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

I do believe that I'm a member of my hometown's community, um but maybe not to the most um extensive degree. I have never been the most involved in things in my um physical community. I've never been the most social or uh participatory. Um, so I do believe that I'm a member based on living here, um reaping from the privileges that my community has by being here, but I am not sure it is to as significant of a degree as other people in my community.

#### **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 do not see myself returning to my hometown in the future. Um, I left quite some time ago. Um I will continue to pursue my life where um I have found myself now. Because I have found that um although I love my hometown based on the experiences I've had there, I have found meaning in the things I do and um my profession is better suited to places which are more populated. Um, and both myself and my community can benefit one another um better in

other places. So I don't see myself returning, um but not so much due to negatives of my hometown, but due to positives of the place I have found.

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

I don't know if I'm proud to be from my hometown, um or proud to be from Massachusetts. I, as a first-generation American, um don't necessarily identify as much with my American or state community um as much as I do with my um ethnic community. So I'm not sure if there's pride there or for me it's just kind of the way things have been.

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

Um well, moving to New York made me realize Massachusetts speech is unique in its own way. Uh, people definitely speak a lot um slower, but more articularly, articularly. They articulate more clearly in Massachusetts, at least in my limited experience, of course. Um, in New York, I find that people talk much more rushed, um and there is a certain Italian cadence to everything. Um, in Massachusetts, the most ethnic speech I would encounter is Portuguese. Um, and even then, everything has its own unique flair that's kind of hard for me to describe.

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

Yeah, I think I would take it as a compliment. I I find it very nice when... I guess I can't say very nice, but it does make me feel very special when people comment on uh me sounding like I'm from some place or looking like I'm from some place. Um, assuming it's not too generalized and like race-based or something. Um, but, I don't know, it it makes you feel like you kind of kind of belong somewhere, you're from somewhere, you can be proud of it. Um, it's kind of like an easy way for you to wear a shirt saying where you're from. Um, yeah.

**Question 7: Could you tell if someone came from Massachusetts by the way they spoke? What if they weren't from Boston?**

I am horrible at identifying people from accents or identifying accents from places. Um, I can definitely tell someone from Boston. I can probably tell someone from Massachusetts. But I barely have an accent. Um, at least, so I've been told. Or so I've observed. Um, so I'm not sure if I could actually tell.

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

Yeah, I think I definitely try to imitate the people around me, especially being in New York, I definitely have found myself talking much faster. Um, but I do take a lot of pauses, I guess, so. Not too sure how well I'm doing with that. But I um have always tried to kind of adapt to where I am. Having a family that's very ethnic, that speaks with a very strong accent, I definitely change based on who I'm around.

*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 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 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 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 **way** 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 **a** 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 **should** put in should count for something,” she 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 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 transport was **so** bad, **that** (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 grass stay**, 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 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 **the** (*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, **a** (*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 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 she got her bearings, she confided in her kindergartener sister Jen. Her caring sister shared in her mourning of the dead rat, but told her to stay positive. After all, **it wasn't the mice**, 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 by his chair,** 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 **his** (*the*) most recent rally, his banner read, 'Usher in 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 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.