



University of
Massachusetts
Amherst

Ashfield 1

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This is a transcription of the audio files of Ashfield 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?

Uh, a community is, um, a group of people with, uh, similar interests usually who are all congregated in a relative area.

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

Um, no I'm not a member of my hometown's community, but that's mostly because I've moved, uh, out of not only the whole town, but of the state.

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

Um, I don't see my re- self returning in the foreseeable future. It was, um, there was nothing about the town worth staying for. And personally, I don't have the resources to kee, uh, going, traveling that far.

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

Um, I'm not proud, I'm not not or whatever the opposite of proud is. It's just kind of like a town, a state, uh you know, there's not a lot of negative or positive connotations. There's not a lot of positive connotations. I'm just kind of, uh, neutral about where I'm from.

Question 5: What do you think of Massachusetts speech?

I think that regional accents and regional speech are not, uh, professional and I think that it's, um, not something that I want in my life. That's why I've worked quite hard, uh, not to have an accent despite being from an area that, uh, kind of does have an original accent.

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

Um, no I wouldn't take it as a compliment that, uh, I've working quite hard to, um, make it so that my voice doesn't sound like it has a regional accent. And I, I appreciate, a uh, clear speech so I try to, I try to speak in a way that doesn't sound regional or distinct.

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

I mean it depends on the person. It depends on the town. I'm not a language expert, I'm not a linguistics. I've got like I've I've gotten people's accents wrong before and it's just-- I don't I don't think so.

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

Yes, I already went over this in the previous recordings. I like to have a very neutral voice so I, I tried to work on my- well, there's, yeah, a period of my life that I tried to work on speaking in a very clear, neutral voice that has no regional accent. It's just kind of, you know, standard American.

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, uh, to take place at the church in Kerry, with live music, uh, 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 and 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 he (it) assured her that he was her soul mate. As they kissed, cheers erupted from both sides of the family. The reception was held by (at) the local farm, with a barn dance and games for the guests. At the dinner, everyone umate 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 cousins (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 all 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 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 Darrigan 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, 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 **cabin** (*hotel*), **uh**, on the Thimble Islands, where he got a free tin of mints. His fourth stop on the tour was the Azores (*mispronounced*), 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 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 **a** 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 **out** **[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 **some** 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 **its** (*his*) life without a fair fight! After she got her bearings, she confided in her **kindergarten** (*kindergartener*) sister Jen. Her caring sister shared in her mourning of the dead rat, but told her to stay positive. After all, 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 **to** (*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 **tele**, 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 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, **but** 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.