

Title:

Middlesbrough

Shelfmark:

C1190/09/05

Recording date:

25.11.2004

Speakers:

Hill, Debbie, b. 1971 Middlesbrough; female; hospital administrative assistant (mother b. Middlesbrough, nurse)

Hill, Glynis, b. 1951 Middlesbrough; female; nurse (mother b. Middlesbrough)

Hill, Marjorie, b. 1926 Middlesbrough; female

The interviewees are three generations of the same family.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

ELICITED LEXIS

- see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
- * see Survey of English Dialects Basic Material (1962-1971)
- ▼ see Ey Up Mi Duck! Dialect of Derbyshire and the East Midlands (2000)
- △ see New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (2006)
- ◇ see Green's Dictionary of Slang (2010)
- ◆ see Urban Dictionary (online)
- △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased	<i>dead chuffed; well chuffed; happy; pleased</i>
tired	<i>knackered; shattered</i>
unwell	<i>poorly; ill</i>
hot	<i>boiling; mafted[◦] (suggested by interviewer, used)</i>
cold	<i>freezing</i>
annoyed	<i>mad; "she's doing your head in" (suggested by interviewer); got a strop on; narked (liked); vexed (suggested by interviewer)</i>
throw	<i>chuck ("chuck it over here"); lob ("lob us that ball over")</i>

play truant	<i>nicked off^Δ; nick off^Δ</i>
sleep	<i>nap</i> (of short sleep in chair)
play a game	<i>play</i> (“shall we have a game of skips ¹ /two(s)ie-ball ² /laggies? ³ ”); <i>playing</i> (“playing whips and tops/jacks”)
hit hard	<i>slap, smack</i> (of person); <i>hit</i> (of object)
clothes	<i>clothes</i>
trousers	<i>pants; trousers; slacks</i> (suggested by interviewer, used in past); <i>trews</i>
child’s shoe	<i>sand-shoes; plimsolls; sannies^Δ, trainers</i> (suggested by interviewer)
mother	<i>mum</i> (written in e.g. greetings cards in preference to “mam”); <i>mam</i> (of/to mother); <i>mother</i> (“oh, mother” used when annoyed)
gmother	<i>grandma; gran</i>
m partner	<i>husband; hubby</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
friend	<i>mate, pal</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>friend</i>
gfather	<i>grandfather; grandad; grand-da[◊]</i> (not used)
forgot name	<i>whatsit; thingy; whosit; thingummybob^Δ; oojah-ma-flip^Δ</i>
kit of tools	<i>tool-kit</i>
trendy	(none known)
f partner	<i>wife; our lass</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
baby	<i>bairn</i> (disputed: used for “toddler”); <i>baby; little one</i>
rain heavily	<i>pissing down; torrents</i> (“ladylike”); <i>bucketing down; raining cats and dogs; cats and dogs</i>
toilet	<i>loo; bog</i> (“common”)
walkway	<i>alleyway; alley; back alley</i>
long seat	<i>settee; sofa</i> (modern, considered “posh”); <i>chaise-longue</i>
run water	<i>stream; beck</i> (used as child in past when playing “beck-jumping”)
main room	<i>living-room</i>
rain lightly	<i>drizzling; spitting</i> (suggested by interviewer)
rich	<i>rich; well off; loaded</i>
left-handed	<i>left-handed; cuddy-wifter[*]</i>
unattractive	<i>pug-ugly; ugly; minger</i> (“minging” also used for ‘dirty’)
lack money	<i>skint; short</i> (“I’m a bit short” suggested by interviewer, heard used)
drunk	<i>pissed; drunk as a newt</i> (used in past); <i>drunk as a skunk^Δ</i>
pregnant	<i>pregnant; got a bun in the oven</i> (used in past); <i>in the family way</i> (commonly whispered behind hands in past)
attractive	<i>cor; pretty; gorgeous; a bit of all right</i> (of male)
insane	<i>nutter; psycho; off their tree[◊]; off their trolley; three sheets to the wind[▼]; totally out of it; sandwich short of a picnic^Δ</i> (suggested by interviewer, used); <i>two sausages short of a barbie^{◊4}; as thick as two short planks^Δ</i> (“old one”); <i>off his head</i>
moody	<i>moody; in a strop; face like a smacked arse^{Δ5}</i>

¹ Iona & Peter Opie’s *Children’s Games with Things* (1999 p.164) records ‘skips’ as one of several regional variants for ‘skipping’.

² Iona & Peter Opie’s *Children’s Games with Things* (1999 p.128) records ‘two-balls’ and ‘twosie-balls’ as type of children’s game.

³ *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘plaggy’ for ‘plastic’; *Urban Dictionary* (online) records ‘lacky band’ for ‘elastic band’; Steve Roud’s *The Lore of the Playground* (2010 p.189) records ‘laggies’ as one of several regional variants for skipping game played with long elastic band.

⁴ *Green’s Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records ‘a couple of snags [= ‘sausages’] short of a barbie’ in this sense.

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⁵ *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (2010) records 'face like a slapped arse' in this sense.