

Title:

Dunbar, East Lothian

Shelfmark:

C1190/43/08

Recording date:

18.03.2005

Speakers:

Ainslie, William Kenneth (Kenny), b. 1944 Dunbar; male; retired (father b. Edrom, Berwickshire, ploughman)

Easingwood, Gordon, b. 1948 Hull, East Yorkshire; male; fisherman (father b. Hull, fisherman; mother b. West Barns, East Lothian, housewife)

Leslie, Colin, b. 1970 Skateraw, East Lothian; male; postman (father b. Dunbar, driver; mother b. Dunbar, shopkeeper)

Smith, Andrew, b. 1939 Dunbar; male; retired fisherman

The interviewees are all close friends from Dunbar.

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 Dictionary of the Scots Language (online edition)
 ‡ see Linguistic Atlas of Scotland (1975-1986)
 △ 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 *chuffed; happy; feeling guid¹; gled[†]*
tired *knackered; done in; sneakered[△]; tired; fed up*
unwell *no weel[†]; seik[†] (“seik, I’m away tae bed”²); no well[†] (“I’m no well”); ill*
hot *biling[†]; steaming; hot; baking (“gosh, it’s baking”)*

¹ Dictionary of the Scots Language (online) records ‘guid’ in sense of ‘good’.

² Dictionary of the Scots Language (online) records ‘tae’ in sense of ‘to’.

cold	<i>cold; nithered</i> (of being “cold to the bone” ³); <i>freezing; Baltic</i> [◇] (suggested by interviewer, “it’s <i>Baltic</i> ”); <i>starving</i> (suggested by interviewer, used for ‘hungry’)
annoyed	<i>roused; lowping</i> [†] ; <i>angry; rattled; mad; not pleased</i>
throw	<i>toss; chuck; fling</i> (of e.g. stone, “ <i>fling it away</i> ”, also used for ‘romantic/sexual affair’ [△]); <i>throw</i> (of e.g. dice)
play truant	<i>skip</i> (“ <i>I’ve skipped school</i> ”); <i>skive</i> (“ <i>I’ve skived off the school</i> ”, used now and in past, also used of absence from work); <i>play truant; skip school; hookey</i> (“ <i>playing hookey</i> ” not used locally, learnt from US TV); <i>bunk off</i> [△]
sleep	<i>go tae bed</i> ² ; <i>kip</i> (suggested by interviewer); <i>nap</i> (“ <i>take a nap</i> ”); <i>forty winks; away tae bed</i> ² ; <i>shut-eye</i> (used frequently); <i>sleep</i>
play a game	<i>take part; game; play</i>
hit hard	<i>skelp</i> (of “ <i>bang on the lug/jaw</i> ”/“ <i>slight smack o the hand</i> ” ⁴); <i>whack</i> (of hitting person “ <i>just to let him ken I’m there</i> ” ⁵); <i>thump</i> (of “ <i>hardest hit</i> ”); <i>wowff</i> [†] (of “ <i>punching</i> ” person, “ <i>he wowffed him</i> ” used when e.g. telling anecdote about fight in pub, old); <i>smack</i> (pronounced “ <i>smeck</i> ” locally); <i>clout; slap</i> (“ <i>I’ll slap you the now</i> ” ⁶); <i>hit hard</i>
clothes	<i>claes</i> (“ <i>pit your claes on</i> ” ⁷); <i>kit; gear; clothes; garb</i>
trousers	<i>breeks; troosers</i> [†] ; <i>nickie-toms</i> [†] (of strap/piece of string tied round trouser leg worn by gamekeepers in past); <i>corduroy troosers; jeans</i> (“ <i>put your jeans on</i> ” of denim trousers); <i>corduroys; cords; slacks</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used); <i>chinos</i> (used in past esp. by golfers)
child’s shoe	<i>sand-shoes; sannies</i> [△] (abbreviation of “ <i>sand-shoes</i> ”); <i>drill shoes</i> [△] ; <i>gym shoes; plimsolls; jimmies</i> [△] (abbreviation of “ <i>gym shoes</i> ”); <i>gutties</i> [†] (suggested by interviewer, heard used of golf ball, also used as child in past of home-made ‘catapult’)
mother	<i>ma, mum</i> (of/to own mother); <i>mother</i> (of own mother); <i>mither</i> [†] (heard used elsewhere)
gmother	<i>granny</i> (“ <i>granny Easingwood/Hill</i> ” used by own grandson to distinguish between paternal and maternal grandmother, “ <i>granny Smith/Ramsey</i> ”/“ <i>granny June/Cathy</i> ”); <i>gran</i> (of maternal grandmother); <i>nan</i> (used to distinguish between paternal grandmother from Borders and maternal “ <i>gran</i> ”); <i>nen</i> ⁸ (used by wife from Borders)
m partner	<i>Kenneth</i> (i.e. by name, used by own wife of/to self); <i>hubby</i> (“ <i>I’d better wait and see what hubby thinks</i> ”); <i>husband</i> (used by own wife of self); <i>your/my man; click</i> [◇] ; <i>beau, gentleman caller</i> [◆] , <i>bit of stuff</i> (suggested by interviewer as used of unmarried partner); <i>boyfriend, partner, fiancé</i> (of unmarried partner); <i>the other half</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard used by own wife)
friend	<i>mate</i> (“ <i>good mate</i> ”); <i>pal; chum; friend; freinds</i> [†] (“ <i>my freind so-and-so</i> ”, also used of relatives)
gfather	<i>grandpa; grandad</i> (“ <i>grandad Easingwood/Hill</i> ” used by own grandson to distinguish between paternal and maternal grandfather); <i>papa</i> [◆] (of own grandfather, used by own grandchildren to self); <i>deyd</i> [†] (used by wife from Borders)
forgot name	<i>thingummy</i> (of person); <i>thingummybob</i> [△] (of object); <i>Jimmy</i> (“ <i>what about, ken, Jimmy?</i> ” ⁹ of person); <i>thingy</i>

³ *OED* (online edition) records ‘to the bone’ in sense of ‘to the core’.

⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘o’ in sense of ‘of’.

⁵ *OED* (online edition) records ‘ken’ in sense of ‘to know’.

⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘the now’ in sense of ‘presently’.

⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘pit’ in sense of ‘to put’.

⁸ ‘750+ Nicknames for Grandfather’ (2017 – see *NICKNAMES*): at <https://www.nicknames.com/nicknames-for-grandfather/>) includes ‘nen’ in this sense.

⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘about’ in sense of ‘about’ and ‘ken’ in sense of ‘you know’.

kit of tools	<i>tool-box; tool-kit; gear; graith, gibbles[†], bass[†]</i> (suggested by interviewer as supplied elsewhere, not known)
trendy	<i>bobby-dazzler</i> (used positively); <i>plonker</i> (“ <i>trying tae make theirsel look somebody that they’re not</i> ” ¹⁰ , “ <i>right plonkers</i> ”); <i>show-off</i> (“ <i>young thing show-off</i> ” used of female); <i>tart</i> (“ <i>dressed up like a tart</i> ” used of female of any age, “ <i>tarted-up</i> ” ^Δ); <i>ned, chav</i> (suggested by interviewer, not used)
f partner	<i>her indoors</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard used); <i>the boss^Δ</i> (“ <i>I’d better see the boss</i> ”); <i>hen; woman; the wife; Lorraine</i> (i.e. by name); <i>the missus</i>
baby	<i>baby; brat</i> (of badly-behaved baby, “ <i>have you brought your brat wi ye?</i> ” ¹¹ used jokingly to own daughter); <i>bairn</i> (most common locally, “ <i>how’s the bairn?</i> ” used to own daughter); <i>kid</i> (of older child); <i>wain[†]</i> (suggested by interviewer, associated with West Coast); <i>toddlers, name</i> (i.e. by name), <i>kids, wee boy[†], wee laddie¹², wee man[†], the wee yin[†], the young yin¹³</i> (of older child); <i>the wee one[†]</i> (of youngest child)
rain heavily	<i>pour; teem; pouring; bucketing doon¹⁴</i> (“ <i>ah, it’s bucketing</i> ”); <i>teeming; pissing doon¹⁴; coming down like stair-rods</i> (suggested by interviewer, heard used by tourists); <i>cats and dogs</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>raining cats and dogs</i> ”)
toilet	<i>cludgie^Δ; loo</i> (“ <i>I’m going to the loo</i> ” used to own children); <i>duffie[†]</i> (“ <i>going to the school duffies</i> ” used at school in past); <i>shit hoose[†]</i> (not used in presence of own children); <i>bathroom; shantie[†]; toilet</i> (“ <i>posh</i> ”, used to own children); <i>shunkie[†]</i> (“ <i>he’s in the shunkie</i> ”, used in past); <i>latrine</i> (suggested by interviewer, used in Forces/of open air toilet when camping)
walkway	<i>close</i> (common locally); <i>pavement; paths; vennel</i> (used to distinguish enclosed walkway from open “ <i>close</i> ”, of e.g. “ <i>vennel doon the harbour</i> ” ⁴³); <i>closes; vennels</i>
long seat	<i>couch</i> (learnt from parents); <i>easy chairs; settee; sofa; bed-settee</i> (of “ <i>couch that folded down</i> ” shared with brothers when growing up)
run water	<i>burn</i> (most common); <i>stream</i>
main room	<i>living-room</i> (most common); <i>lounge</i> (disputed: used of room in pub); <i>sitting-room</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>go ben the sitting-room</i> ” ¹⁵ used by parents in past)
rain lightly	<i>drizzle</i> (used frequently)
rich	<i>weel off¹⁶; West Ender^Δ</i> (used locally as West End of Dunbar traditionally considered affluent); <i>loaded; well off</i>
left-handed	<i>carrie pawed[†]; lefty</i>
unattractive	<i>ugly</i> (also used locally in past of cane hat worn by women working in fields [†]); <i>awfy no bonny¹⁷</i> (“ <i>polite</i> ”, used by sister); <i>howler[♦]</i> (heard used); <i>glaiokit¹⁸</i> (“ <i>glaiokit-looking</i> ”)
lack money	<i>skint</i> (common locally); <i>stony-broke</i> (“ <i>if you’ve just got stanes ye canna pay for it</i> ” ¹⁹); <i>brassy lint²⁰</i> (heard used)

¹⁰ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘tae’ in sense of ‘to’ and ‘theirsel’ in sense of ‘themselves’.

¹¹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘wi’ in sense of ‘with’ and ‘ye’ in sense of ‘you’.

¹² *OED* (online edition) records ‘wee’ in sense of ‘little’.

¹³ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘yin’ in sense of ‘one’; *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (2006) records ‘young ’un’ in this sense.

¹⁴ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘doon’ in sense of ‘down’.

¹⁵ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘ben’ in sense of ‘through (a house) to inner/best room’.

¹⁶ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘weel’ in sense of ‘well’; *OED* (online edition) records ‘well off’ in this sense.

¹⁷ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘awfy’ in sense of ‘awfully’ and ‘no’ in sense of ‘not’.

¹⁸ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘glaiokit’ in sense of ‘stupid’.

¹⁹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘stane’ in sense of ‘stone’, ‘ye’ in sense of ‘you’ and ‘canna’ in sense of ‘can’t’.

drunk	<i>fou</i> (“ <i>sou fou</i> ” ²¹ “ <i>stupid-fou</i> ” [†]); <i>gassed</i> ^Δ ; <i>steaming</i> ^Δ (“ <i>oh, he was steaming when I seen him</i> ”); <i>pissed</i> (suggested by interviewer, used occasionally)
pregnant	<i>up the duff</i> (common); <i>in the pudding club</i> ; <i>pregnant</i> (“ <i>sensible</i> ”); “ <i>we’re gonna have kids</i> ” (used by wife when pregnant); <i>up the stick</i> (not used by daughter); <i>expecting</i> (“ <i>sanitised version</i> ”)
attractive	<i>attractive</i> ; <i>babe</i> (“ <i>a babe</i> ” used by younger speakers); <i>bonny</i> ; <i>beautiful</i> (not used, “ <i>too fancy</i> ”); <i>smashers</i> , <i>braw lassies</i> (used in past); <i>stoater</i> ^Δ ; <i>braw</i> (suggested by interviewer, “ <i>braw-looking</i> ”)
insane	<i>daft</i> ; <i>loopy</i> ; <i>off your heid</i> ²² ; <i>off your trolley</i> (common locally); <i>loony</i> ; <i>nuts</i> (“ <i>oh, he’s nuts he’s not right</i> ”, “ <i>he’s hazelnut</i> ” ^Δ); <i>off his head/heid</i> ²²
moody	<i>grumpy</i> ; <i>dour</i> (of moody person’s appearance); <i>temperamental</i> (“ <i>sanitised version</i> ”); <i>moody</i>

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²⁰ *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* (2014) includes ‘brassy’ in this sense; *OED* (online edition) records ‘brassic lint’ in this sense.

²¹ *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘sou’ in sense of ‘sow’ and ‘fou’ in sense of ‘drunk’; *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary* (1977) records ‘sow-drunk’ in this sense.

²² *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (online) records ‘heid’ in sense of ‘head’; *OED* (online edition) includes ‘off one’s head’ in this sense.