

Maryland 4

Subject is a Caucasian female, 55+ years of age. College-educated. Worked as a nurse (RN) and later co-owned and ran a small business.

Was born in Baltimore. Has always lived in the greater Baltimore area, though enjoys traveling, including outside the US.

TRANSCRIPTION OF UNSCRIPTED SPEECH: How to eat a crab. Well, the crabs get dumped on the table and the first one you pick you have to take it and that's your crab. You can't throw it back...you touch it, it's yours. So you take it, and if you don't like all the seasoning you brush a little of the seasoning off of it. And then youuuu...turn it over, and there's a little flip-top and you kinda pull that back on the belly...and then you get your thumb in there and you peel off the top outer shell. And then I scrape off all the gills...a plastic knife works very well for that. And then I break it in half, leaving all the legs intact. Then I will kinda peel away...oh, I do take off the two front legs—the big claws. OK, then you get your knife and you kinda pay...peel away the cartilage that's in the front. This gives you a big hunk of crab meat—backfin it's called. Then you break that off and you eat that and then you kinda mess around a...with all the other stuff in there, saving the legs for later...maybe soup? Maybe if you're still hungry later. That's how you eat a crab. With vinegar.

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION:

Overall tendency of phonetic reduction. Characteristic posture of raised tongue (dorsum). Also specific instances of lip rounding as described below.

Raised posture of the anterodorsum of the tongue results in the pronunciation of [ɛ̥] in many Baltimore and Maryland dialects in stressed syllables, heard in this sample in words such as "so, goat, over" [sɛ̥] [gɛ̥t] ['ɛ̥və].

Another key feature of many dialects from the region related to raising of the dorsum can be observed in the pronunciation of spelled letter "l". Generally speaking, in all but the initial position, pronunciation of "l" is often labialized [lʷ]. When "l" follows a front or central unrounded vowel or is syllabic, frequently only the posterodorsum is raised, but the tip/blade of the tongue is NOT raised--lip rounding appears to substitute for raising of the tip/blade. This often results in the substitution of a back rounded vowel [ʊ] for "l". Examples are found in "animal" "table" "little" ['ænəmə] ['teɪbə] ['lɪrə].

Note pronunciation of "almost"--[ɔ̥mɛ̥st]. In this case, "l" follows a back rounded vowel [ɔ̥]. Perhaps because the posterodorsum is already raised and lips rounded for the [ɔ̥] vowel, no sound substitutes for the "l". In this instance, I would suggest that the back rounded vowel essentially "stands in" for both the vowel AND the lateral approximate.

Other notable pronunciations in the sample:

veterinary	[ˈvɛtᵻnɛɪ̯]
daily	[ˈdɛɪ̯]
tower	[ˈtɔ̯wə]
liking	[ˈlaɪ̯kɪ̯n]
morning	[ˈmɔ̯ɹ̩nɪ̯n]
mirror	[mɪ̯ɹ̩]
washed	[wɔ̯ʃt]
porridge	[ˈpɔ̯ɹ̩dʒ]
yellow	[ˈjɛlə]
mouth	[mæ̯ʊθ]
tire	[taɹ̩]
futile	[ˈfʉ̯tɪ̯lɪ̯ʊ]
almost	[ˈɔ̯mɛ̯ʊst]
half	[hæ̯ɹ̩f]
around	[əˈɹ̩ænd]

SAMPLE RECORDED October 18, 2008. SPEECH TRANSCRIBED, AND NOTES WRITTEN BY LYNN WATSON ON DECEMBER 12, 2008.