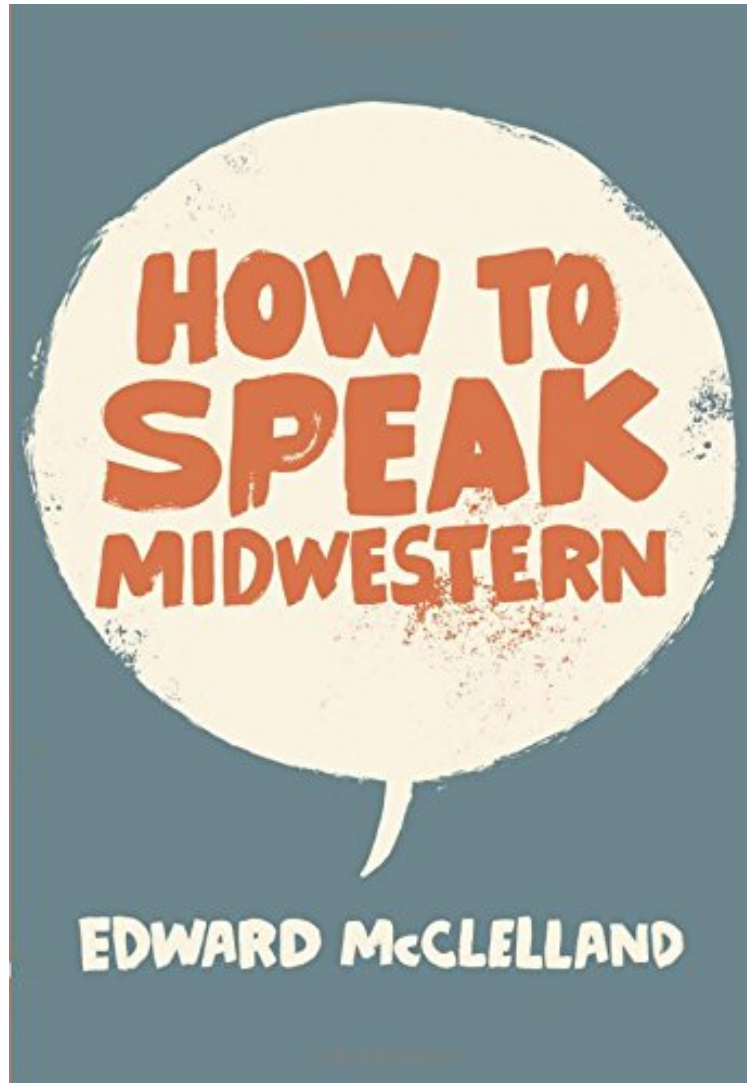


How to Speak Midwestern

Edward McClelland

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Edward McClelland : How to Speak Midwestern before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Speak Midwestern:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. McClelland is a revelation By Pigskin Preacher My first knowledge of Ted McClelland came from his stellar book "Nothin' But Blue Skies," an investigation of the decline of the Rust Belt manufacturing base. This book takes a fascinating turn as McClelland draws on his vast research and personal experience with the accents and language patterns that characterize the region. It is a delightful blend of history, linguistics, sociology, regionalism with copious amounts of humor sprinkled throughout. Buy this book. Read it. Give it to a friend. I learned things from it that living in Flint, Mich. never revealed. Great stuff from a Michigander (a

pejorative term coined by a young Illinois politician--F.I.P.?--named Abraham Lincoln, lobbed at Michigan's Lewis Cass).7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A boatload of fun!By Steven PetersonThis book is a boatload of fun and erudite discussion of linguistics. Two parts to the book are key: (a) an introduction to the distinctive qualities of three linguistic communities in the Midwest; (b) examples of words used in each state and some cities, to ground the discussion in concrete usage by people. The three divisions of Midwest speech--North Central (located in the Dakotas and Minnesota, with a slim slice from Iowa; Inland North (ranging from New York west from Rochester through Buffalo, to Chicago--with parts of the following states: New York, a piece of northern Pennsylvania, a bit of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois with Chicago and surrounding counties); Midland (stretching from Nebraska, Kansas, a bit of Oklahoma, most of Missouri, most of Iowa, Illinois outside of the Chicago region, plus most of Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania). The author discusses characteristics of each region, in terms of how words are pronounced. The change over time is also discussed. Some parts of a region's language disappeared with time as the older people died off and younger people going to college changed their way of speaking to blend in. This discussion is in itself fascinating. One problem that I found was the book's efforts to distinguish sounds. One example: a fronted o which makes "box" sound like "bahhx." I don't really know how to pronounce "bahhx." There are a number of examples like this. I did get others--such as the move of "cot" and "caught" coming together, lessening regional differences. One example that caught my mind "wash" sounding like "worsh." I recall as a kid being annoyed when people would speak of George Worshington. Well, now I know why it was said that way, given that people in some regions pronounced wash as worsh! The second part provides examples of words and phrases characteristic of different states and cities. Some quick examples: Buffalonians refer to numbered roads, such as "the 190," rather than saying Route 90; In Illinois, who says the name of Chicago which way? Chi-cah-go or Chi-caw-go or speaking of gym shoes rather than sneakers; In Indiana, the sandwich referred to as a "Hoosier," although this book calls it a "tenderloin" (a slab of pork tenderloin pounded thinly and then cooked and placed in a sandwich--so that the tenderloin extends well beyond the bun!); Iowans refer to the Mississippi River as the East Coast and the Missouri River as the West Coast. And so on! One reason that I enjoyed this book is that I am from central Illinois and recall hearing people speak in a way as to exemplify the book's examination--such as "worsh." A lot of fun and an interesting analysis of language and its evolution over time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Accents are the spice of lifeBy George MountI have enjoyed everything that Belt has published, and this title is one of my favorites. Like most Ohioans, I assumed I didn't have an accent. Not only does McClelland debunk this sentiment, he got me excited about my accent, which I learned is a Northern Cities. This book truly has made life more enriching. I love spotting accents and local slang when out shopping or listening to the local radio. I have a better appreciation for how different regions of the Midwest relate and differ linguistically. This was a fun, easy read that I will continue to cite -- for a few dollars (or is it dowlars?), what a bargain!

Pittsburgh toilet, squeaky cheese, city chicken, shampoo banana, and Chevy in the Hole are all phrases that are familiar to Midwesterners but sound foreign to anyone living outside the region. This book explains not only what Midwesterners say but also how and why they say it and covers such topics as: the causes of the Northern cities vowel shift, why the accents in Fargo miss the nasality that's a hallmark of Minnesota speech, and why Chicagoans talk more like people from Buffalo than their next-door neighbors in Wisconsin. Readers from the Midwest will have a better understanding of why they talk the way they do, and readers who are not from the Midwest will know exactly what to say the next time someone ends a sentence with "eh?".

“A dictionary wrapped in some serious dialectology inside a gift book trailing a serious whiff of Relevance.” — New York Times