

Questions To Ask Your Parents/Grandparents

(Check the ones that will be the most interesting to have answered)

- ☐ What is a moment from your life that made you feel incredibly humble?
- ☐ How did you choose your career and what was your favorite part about it?
- ☐ What made you successful at work?
- ☐ Growing up, what was your greatest fear?
- ☐ What three words describe how you want to be remembered?
- ☐ What are you most thankful for and why?
- ☐ Where were you born?
- ☐ Do you know why you were given your first name?
- ☐ Who was your best friend as a child? What is a memory you have with them?
- ☐ Did you have a nickname growing up? Where did it come from?
- ☐ Tell about your siblings, starting with the oldest to the youngest.
- ☐ What games did you play as a child?
- ☐ How did you celebrate _____ (holiday) when you were a child?
- ☐ What were your favorite hobbies growing up?
- ☐ What is something naughty you did as a child? What lesson did you learn?
- ☐ What music did you listen to as a teenage?
- ☐ What do you remember about your parents?
- ☐ What was it like growing up in your home?
- ☐ What was your favorite subject in school and why?
- ☐ What kind of vacations did you go on as a child?
- ☐ What was your favorite vacation? Why?
- ☐ Did you have a pet(s) as a child? Tell about it.
- ☐ Were you even in an accident? If so, what happened?
- ☐ What advice would you give your children now?
- ☐ What do you think the world needs more of right now?
- ☐ What are you the most proud of?
- ☐ What were the five most positive moments of your life?
- ☐ What do you remember about when each of your children were born?
- ☐ Which three events most shaped your life?
- ☐ What is your earliest memory?
- ☐ When was your first date? Tell about it.
- ☐ What advice would you give to your children now?
- ☐ What was a typical school day like for you as a child?
- ☐ What did you do as a child to keep from being bored?
- ☐ Who was stricter – mom or dad? Share a memory to support your answer.
- ☐ What did you do for work?
- ☐ How many jobs did you have? Tell me about each of them.
- ☐ What is something special that happened to you?

- ☐ What is something terrible that happened to you?
- ☐ What sort of street did you live on? What was your neighborhood like?
- ☐ What was your least favorite subject in school and why?
- ☐ How old were you when you had your first boyfriend/girlfriend?
- ☐ How many serious relationships did you have before you met your spouse?
- ☐ What was dating like back then?
- ☐ What is something funny that happened to you?
- ☐ What was your scariest experience?
- ☐ What three words describe your approach to parenting and why?
- ☐ What do you remember most about your grandparents?
- ☐ What are the three best decisions you ever made and why?
- ☐ If you could share a message with the world, what would that message be?
- ☐ What three words describe you the best and why?
- ☐ What are the most important lessons you have learned over time?
- ☐ If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be?
- ☐ What is your favorite food, drink, movie, color, song, etc.?"
- ☐ Do you have any regrets in life, if so, what are they?
- ☐ What is the best advice you have ever received and why was it share with you?
- ☐ What do you think is the meaning of life?
- ☐ What one person has inspired you the most in your life?
- ☐ How has society and the world changed since you were young?
- ☐ When was the first time you flew on an airplane and where were you going?
- ☐ Describe your wedding day.
- ☐ Have you ever wasted money on anything? Tell about it.
- ☐ If you had three wishes, what would they be?
- ☐ What is your greatest accomplishment?
- ☐ What is your favorite place you every visited?
- ☐ What do you wish you have more time for, in life?
- ☐ What was your best investment?
- ☐ If you could live anywhere, where would that be and why?
- ☐ What is your most prized possession and why?
- ☐ Who is your current best friend? Tell a memory with them.
- ☐ Describe your perfect day to me.
- ☐ What is your biggest worry?
- ☐ What advice would you give your younger self?
- ☐ Have you ever met anyone famous? Tell about it.
- ☐ What do you wish you would have wasted less time doing?
- ☐ What is something you have always been good at?
- ☐ Describe the first house you ever bought?
- ☐ How do you feel about religion?
- ☐ Were you named after someone? If so, tell why.

- ☐ What do you miss the most about the “good ole days?”
- ☐ Did you go on a honeymoon? Where?
- ☐ Have you ever done something crazy?
- ☐ Did you have any luxuries as a child? What were they?
- ☐ Describe your childhood bedroom.
- ☐ How did you propose, or how were you proposed to?
- ☐ What did your parents do for work?
- ☐ How did you celebrate your Birthdays?
- ☐ What is the best Christmas gift you ever received?
- ☐ How did you spend your summers?
- ☐ What is something I might not know about you that would be fun to tell me?
- ☐ How many different countries have you visited?
- ☐ What do you remember most about your teenage years?
- ☐ Did you ever play a sport?
- ☐ Have you ever won an award?
- ☐ Why did you choose to live where you live now?
- ☐ What makes you the happiest?
- ☐ Is there anything you still wish you could do?
- ☐ In what ways is life harder or easier now?
- ☐ Have you ever had a health scare?
- ☐ Have you ever lost something you love?
- ☐ If you could invite 3 famous people to dinner, who would they be and why?
- ☐ If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do?
- ☐ Out of all of the things you have learned in life, what has been most useful to you?
- ☐ If you could travel back in time, what time in your life would you go to?
- ☐ What is the nicest things someone has done for you?
- ☐ What is your most embarrassing moment from the past?
- ☐ What has been the hardest thing for you to overcome?
- ☐ What world events happened in your lifetime that stand out to you the most?
- ☐ What is the hardest thing you have had to overcome?
- ☐ How do you handle stress?
- ☐ Have you ever had surgery?
- ☐ What do you wish you knew more about?
- ☐ How did you decide on your career?
- ☐ Tell about your education.
- ☐ What do you think is the most important invention in your lifetime?
- ☐ When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- ☐ What goals did you set for yourself and were you able to reach them?
- ☐ Did you have any fears or phobias growing up?
- ☐ What is the hardest decision you ever made?
- ☐ What would you still like to learn about?

Tips & Tricks

- Go through the questions and mark the ones that you want to ask. Divide them up among you and your siblings or other family members. Have them record and edit the stories and Give them a due date when you need them back.
- Don't worry about the order of your questions - randomly placed stories work great. If you do want them in order, you can cut and paste them after.
- Encourage your parents/grandparents to expound on the answers. The questions are prompts that should spark a story (short or long), but you may have to ask them some "whys" and "hows" to get more information.
- If Your parents/grandparents live far away. You can ask him the questions on the phone. Just put your phone on speaker and open up the platform you'll be recording it on.
- If your parents/grandparents are in comfortable answering these questions on the spot, don't let them know you are recording them. You can just use the phrase, "I've been thinking a lot about you lately and I just have some questions I'm curious about from your past/growing up years. Do you have a minute to talk to me about some of my questions."
- If you ask then a questions that they aren't sure how to answer, go on to the next question and come back to that one later – maybe they will have an answer by then.
- If your parents/grandparents are interested and excited about this project, you might show them the list and have them pick the questions they want to answer. Or you can tell them which questions you will be asking so they can think about their answers ahead of time.
- Plan to read through the typing to make corrections. The voice-typing is not perfect and you will have to add/change some of the punctuation.
- When you have all of the stories, you can combine them, add photos, recipes, documents, etc. that support the stories. And if you want to give them a title you can come up with something clever or you can use the question as the title. This allows each story/answer to stand on it's own.
- The best advice I can give you is to be patient with them and let them make mistakes or change their mind about what they say. You're number one goal should be to make this an enjoyable experience for everyone and you will have more success if you keep everyone relaxed and having fun, and your attitude and patience will make all the difference.

VOICE-TYPING APPLICATIONS (Free)

On Computer:

"Word" has voice recognition

Google Docs (tools section)

iPhone

Notes – use the voice prompt

Otter (App)

Android Phone

Voice Recorder (App)

Other:

Speechnotes

ListNotes

Windows speech recognition