

100 QUESTIONS FOR REMINISCENCE

Growing Up

1. Where were you born? Could you show me on a map?
2. When were you born?
3. What is your full name? Did you have a nickname when you were young?
4. What was your favorite television show as a child?
5. What was the first movie you saw in a theater?
6. What did you do to celebrate birthdays?
7. What was your first job?
8. Did you get an allowance?
9. Did you save it or spend it? When did you open your first bank account?
10. Were you raised in a certain religion? Are you religious now?

Family

1. How many siblings do you have?
2. What are your brother's or sister's full names?
3. What are your parents' full names?
4. What were your parents' careers?
5. What was the make, model, and color of the family car?
6. Were you an obedient or misbehaving child?
7. What was your bedtime as a child?
8. Did you ever break curfew or sneak out of the house?
9. Did you have pets?
10. What were your pet's names?

School

1. What were you like during school? (Class clown, shy, etc)
2. What were you good at in school? Did you have a favorite subject?
3. Did you study for exams long before they happened or cram the night before?
4. What were the most popular clothes in school?
5. What were the most popular toys or gadgets?
6. Did you play – or want to play – any specific musical instrument?
7. What sports did you like to play?
8. What games did you like to play?
9. Did you participate in any other extracurricular activities like theater, debate, church youth group, etc?
10. Did you go to college or receive any training after high school? If so, where and what was your favorite part?

Career

1. How many jobs have you had?
2. Which was your favorite and why?
3. What was one of the hardest parts of being in the workforce?
4. Who was one of your biggest mentors?
5. Do you have any job advice for me when I start working?

Romantic Relationships

1. How did you meet your spouse?
2. What year was it?
3. What qualities do you remember liking about them?
4. What was your first date?
5. When and where did you get married?
6. How did you propose?
7. What was your wedding like?
8. How did you know they were the one?
9. What was/has been one of your favorite parts of marriage?
10. What was/has been one of the biggest struggles you've overcome together?

Friendships

1. How did you meet your best friend growing up?
2. What did you and your best friend love to do together?
3. Was there a certain place you and your friends liked to hang out?
4. How did you make friends as an adult? What did you like to do together?
5. What's one of your favorite memories with a friend?

Travel

1. Did your family go on many vacations together?
2. What was your best family vacation?
3. Which countries have you traveled to?
4. Where is your favorite place you've visited? Why?
5. Do you have a favorite memory from traveling?
6. Do you have a scary memory from traveling?
7. What was the most interesting or unique food or dish you had while traveling?
8. Who was your favorite travel companion? Why?
9. If you could visit any place you've already traveled again, where would it be? Why?
10. Where was the longest trip you've been on? How long did you travel for? What was the occasion?

Military Service

1. Did you ever serve in the military? If so, what branch?
2. What years did you serve? Where did you serve? What wars were you involved in?
3. What was your rank (if applicable)?
4. What type of work did you perform?
5. Why did you decide to enlist or were you drafted?
6. Did you see combat? What was that like?
7. Were you injured while on duty? How did it happen?
8. What did you do for entertainment?
9. Did you keep a diary/keep in touch with your family? Do you still have it?
10. Did you make any close friendships while in service? Can you tell me about one?

Community Service

1. Have you/do you participate in any community service? If so, what organizations did/do you volunteer with?
2. What drew you to these organizations?
3. How long have you/did you volunteer with them?
4. What was/is your role in these organizations?
5. What is a favorite experience you've had with them?
6. What do you think you got out of these experiences?
7. How has volunteering made you feel?
8. Has it changed your outlook on your community?
9. How do you think your organization has impacted your community?
10. Are there any organizations you'd like to volunteer or get involved with now?

Life Events

1. Who has made the biggest impact on your life and why?
2. What was the most embarrassing thing that happened to you?
3. What is one of your biggest accomplishments in your life?
4. What items are on your bucket list?
5. What's one of the hardest things you've had to overcome?

Holiday Traditions

1. What's your favorite holiday?
2. Do you have any traditions for the following holidays?
 1. Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa
 2. Thanksgiving
 3. Passover/Easter
 4. Halloween
 5. Valentines Day
 6. 4th of July
 7. Others
3. What are some of your favorite memories from these holidays?
4. Are there any special dishes you used to/currently make or eat for these holidays?
5. What's the best gift you've ever received? Given?

Favorites

1. Meal?
2. Dessert?
3. Drink?
4. Color?
5. Flower?
6. Singer?
7. Actor and actress?
8. Book?
9. Radio show?
10. Hobby?