

So You Want to Interview Grandma:
Suggested Questions

Q#	Question	Notes
1	Introduce yourself. Spell your first/middle/last name.	
2	When were you born (month/day/year)?	
3	How old are you today?	
4	Where do you live today?	
5	What was the name of the town where you were born? Spell it.	
6	Does your name have any special significance? Did you have a nickname?	
7	What do you know about your family surname?	
8	When and where were you born?	
9	How did your family come to live there?	
10	Were there other family members in the area? Who?	
11	What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?	
12	What was your mother's name? Where was she born? When? What was her origin/nationality/ethnicity/religion? What was her family like? What type of education did she receive? What was her occupation? Did she speak other languages?	
13	What was your father's name? Where was he born? When? What was his origin/nationality/ethnicity/religion? What was his family like? What type of education did he receive? What was his occupation?	
14	Did you have any siblings? How many? What were their names beginning with the oldest sibling? When were they born? Where? What were they like? Did you share in any activities together?	
15	What was a typical day like when you were growing up?	
16	In what city did you grow up? If different from your birthplace, why did you/your family move? When?	
17	How would you describe your family's economic status?	
18	Who were your friends? Describe the games you played. What toys did you have?	
19	What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school?	
20	Was your family religious? How did you observe religion in your home and daily life?	
21	As a child, what was your favorite holiday? Describe	
22	What were your goals as a young person looking toward the future?	

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23	What is your favorite childhood memory?	
24	What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?	
25	Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?	
26	Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?	
27	Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?	
28	Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles, or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?	
29	What did you do for fun (movies, games, etc.)?	
30	Did you have family chores or jobs? What were they? Which was your least favorite?	
31	What school activities and sports did you participate in?	
32	Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?	
33	Who were your childhood heroes?	
34	What were your favorite songs and music genres?	
35	Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?	
36	What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?	
37	Who were your friends when you were growing up?	
38	What world events had the most impact on you when you were a child? How did they affect you and your family?	
39	Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?	
40	How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?	
41	What was high school like?	
42	Did you attend college? Why/why not? If so, where and what did you major in? What was it like?	
43	How did it feel the first time you moved away from home?	
44	When and how did you meet your spouse?	
45	What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?	
46	Where and when did you get married?	

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47	What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?	
48	How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?	
49	What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?	
50	How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?	
51	Why did you choose your children's names?	
52	What was your proudest moment as a parent?	
53	What is your strongest memory of your family?	
54	Is there anything about your life that you regret?	
55	What was your profession and how did you choose it?	
56	If you could have had any other profession, what would it have been? Why was this your first choice?	
57	Of all the things you learned from your parents, what do you feel was the most valuable?	
58	What accomplishments are you most proud of?	
59	What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?	
60	What advice do you have for me?	