

Interview Questions for Your Memoir

1. When were you born?
2. Were you born in a hospital or at home?
3. What are the names and birthdates of your brothers and sisters?
4. Where did you use to live? Did you live in the country or in town?
5. Who did you live with when you were a child?
6. Can you describe your mom and dad?
7. Who was more strict, your mom or dad?
8. What were your favorite games and activities?
9. Did your family have big reunions?

School

10. Did you go to school? Did you like it?
11. When did you start going to school?
12. Where was the school?
13. How did you get to school?
14. Did you have to walk to school?
15. What did you learn at school?
16. Did you have to study hard at school?
17. Did you have to do exams?
18. What else did you use to do at school?
19. Did you have to go to school in the afternoon?
20. How old were you when you left school?
21. Why did you leave school?

22. Why didn't you go to school?
23. Did you have a bicycle when you were a child?
24. Did you get any presents when you were a child?
25. When did you get presents?
26. What sort of presents? Tell me about a present you remember
27. Did you have a radio or TV?
28. When did you get your first radio/TV?
29. When you were a teenager, what time did you have to be home at night?
30. Which are the main differences between children now and then?

Work

31. When did you start to work?
32. What was your first job?
33. How did you get to work?
34. What time did you use to get up in the morning?
35. What time did you finish work?
36. What did you use to do after work?
37. Did you use to work on Saturdays?
38. And on Sundays?
39. Tell me about some important news or facts that happened when you were young
40. Did you use to travel when you were young?
41. Where did you go? Which countries or towns did you visit?
42. Did you have to travel to another country to work there?

43. Which country did you go to?
44. What difficult things did you have to do when you were young?
45. Which are your best memories?
46. Which are your worst memories?
47. Can you tell me about the three most memorable events in your life?

Adult life

48. When did you get married? How old were you?
49. Did you have a wedding travel? How many children did you have?
50. Which were your priorities when you were young?
51. Which are the main differences between life when you were young and life nowadays?
52. Have you accomplished what you wanted in life?
53. What advice would you like to give me?

Additional questions you could ask

- Was there anything unusual or unique about your birth?
- What is your earliest memory?
- What did your parents do for a living?
- What were the names of your grandparents and where were they from?
- What did your grandparents do for a living?
- What is your first memory about your siblings, parents, pets, toys, or house?
- What is your happiest childhood memory? Your saddest?

How have childhood favorites impacted you? (toys, cartoons, books, etc.)

Did you have any pets growing up? What were their names?

Were your parents good parents?

What event in your childhood had the most impact on your life as an adult?

What is your first memory about school?

Was learning to read and write a struggle for you?

Who was your favorite teacher?

What was your favorite subject in school?

Did you participate in any extra-curricular activities?

What clique did you belong to?

What do you wish you would have learned more about in school?

What schoolmate had the most impact on your life? In what way?

Who was your first best friend? How did they influence your life?

What did you learn about yourself in high school?

What was the first moment you felt truly grown up or independent?

How old were you when you began to drive?

Who gave you your first kiss?

Who was your first love?

What is your best memory as a teenager with your friends?

What was the best party you went to when you were a teenager?

What was your first job?

How much was your first paycheck and what did you do with it?

What moment in your life have you felt most loved?

Which one of your parents are you most like?

Was graduating from high school a big event?

Has education played an important role in your life?

What have you done that you never thought you would do?

What was the greatest challenge of your life so far?

What do you wish you had done differently in your life?

Who do you wish you could see again?

Who was the lost love of your life?

What word would you most like people to associate with you?

Who was the biggest influence (positive or negative) on your life?

How were your belief systems formed? (religion, politics, family, etc.)

What is great about your life right now?

What could be better about your life?

To what degree has technology shaped your life in the past 10 years?

When is the last time you learned to do something new?

Does your career make you happy?

How is your family unique?