

Conversation Starters for Reminiscing

How old were you when you started to help with household chores, farm chores or the family business? Who taught you how to do these things?

Join us at: ndsus.edu/ag/familytable



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What is most important to you?

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When and where were you born? Do you know who else was present?

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What was the first movie you saw in a theater?

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What did your family do to celebrate birthdays when you were a child?

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How many siblings do you have? Tell me one thing you recall about each of them.

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What were your parents' careers?

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What was the make, model and color of the family car you liked best growing up?

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As a student, did you study for tests long before they happened or cram the night before?

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What were the most popular toys when you were a young child?

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What board games did you play in junior high and high school?

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What type of music did you like when you were in school? Did you sing or play an instrument?

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What type of activities did you participate in as a youth? (music, sports, speech, 4-H, faith-based groups)

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Did you have a job during your high school years? Where did you work? What were your tasks?

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What type of technology have you found most helpful in your life? What technology do you think we could do without?

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What would you like to ask your mom or dad?

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Who were your childhood friends? Who are your high school friends?

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What are you most proud of?

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How did you get money as a child? Did you have a job or receive an allowance?

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Which was your favorite subject or class in school? Which class didn't you like?

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What was your favorite school lunch?

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Tell me what makes a day "great" for you.

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What was a favorite hobby you had as a child? As an adult?

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Which sports do you follow? Why?

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Tell me about a funny incident with a team to which you belonged.

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Which hairstyles were popular when you were in high school?

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What were the fads in clothing that you liked best through the years? Which do you find amusing?

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What is a typical day like for you?

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What do you do for fun?

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Which household chore do you like to do? Which is your least favorite?

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What were your parents like when they were older?

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What surprises you most about life?

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Name one person who helped shape your life. What impact did that person have?

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What do you look forward to?

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Which holidays did your family celebrate when you were a child? Did you continue those traditions as an adult?

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What rules did your parents/guardians have for you?

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If you could solve one problem, what would it be?

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Name one piece of advice you got from your parent or parents.

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Name one piece of advice you got from your grandparent(s).

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How would you describe your favorite teacher?

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Name a favorite book or movie.

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Name one family ritual, tradition or practice you enjoy and one you would like to stop doing.

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What is one value your parents held that you share. What is one value you do not share.

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Describe an event or situation that made you think differently about life.

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Through time, do you feel you have changed the way you think about people?

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What do you consider the significant successes you have had in your life?

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What advice do you have for me at my age?

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If you could tell the world one thing about living your best life, what would it be?

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Name all of the different modes of transportation you have used during your life. (skis, dogsled, horse)

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How many states have you visited?

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What one item did you get rid of that you would like to have back?

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Did you ever possess something of great value to you but it was not worth much money?

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What is your full name? Were you named after someone special?

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How are you like one or more of your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins?

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Have you ever had a nickname? Who started calling you that nickname?

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What is the best compliment you ever have received? Why?

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What do you hope your children/grandchildren know about you?

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Name the towns where you have lived.

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How do you handle changes in your life?

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Did you or someone close to you serve in the military? Where did that person serve?

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How old were you when you got married? Tell me about your wedding.

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Who taught you to sew? What do you like to sew?

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Who taught you to mow the lawn and tend a garden? How old were you?

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What's your favorite food that a grandparent or other relative made? Did you learn to make it?

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What are your children's names? Why did you chose those names for each child?

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What is the best thing about being a spouse, parent or grandparent?

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Did you have pets? What is your most unusual pet?

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How old were you when you learned to drive? What type of vehicle did you first learn to drive?

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Who taught you to cook and bake? How old were you?

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Name two things that make your spouse special.

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