

## Memoir Interview Questions

This list of questions has been prepared to make it easy for someone to tell you their life story so you can write their memoir. If any question doesn't apply to them then simply skip it. And feel free to add a few questions to cover other important parts of their life story.

### Bio Basics – The Facts

1. What is your first name? Last name? Middle name? Any nicknames? Maiden name? *(please spell all difficult words)*
2. When and where were you born? *(please spell difficult names and words)*
3. What is your ethnic background? (e.g. English, Irish, African, French, Native American, etc)
4. How tall are you? What color are your eyes? What about your hair?
5. Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names? How old are they?
6. Are you married? When and where did you get married? What is your spouses name? When & where were they born?
7. What schools did you go to (name, city, state)? When did you graduate? Did you have a major or other special topic of interest?
8. Do you have some photos, awards, diplomas or other scrapbook items? Talk about them.
9. What organizations are or were you a member of? This might include your church, charities, social clubs, etc. Do you know what the website URL's are for each of them?

# Memoirs

*by WebBiographies*

## Childhood

1. What was your childhood home like? Your neighborhood? Your town?
2. How was your parents' relationship?
3. What were your siblings like back then, and how did you get along with them?
4. What was school like for you? Any special memories?
5. Did you play on any sports teams, or were you part of any organizations (e.g. yearbook, band, student government, clubs etc)?  
Talk about them.
6. Who was your role model?
7. What were the happiest times of your childhood?
8. Does a particular memory stand out as formative for the course your life took?
9. Other things you would like in your memoir about your childhood?

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## Love and Family

1. How did you first meet your spouse? First impressions? Provide some details?
2. Were you and your spouse in love from the start, or did the relationship take time?
3. Talk about the time when you dated. Any enlightening or funny stories?
4. What was the favorite house or place that you lived? What made it special?
5. If you had children, was it a conscious decision, an accident, or something you never had to think about?
6. What are your children's names? When and where were they born?
7. Any difficulties or unique circumstances (cesarean birth, use of midwife/non-hospital birth, etc.)?
8. Over the years, what was the most rewarding thing about raising kids?
9. The toughest?

10. What do you remember as the best times you had as a family?
11. Which family vacation was your favorite?
12. Do you have a pet? Tell me about it.
13. Do you have any advice about being a good parent?
14. After you reached adulthood, what were your relationships like with your parents & siblings?
15. How do you want to live out the rest of your life? How has this changed over the years?
16. What do you dream about? What would you ask for if granted three wishes?
17. Other things you would like to talk about from your love life and family?

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## Work

1. Were you in the military? What branch? What rank? Any stories you would like to share?
2. What was your first job, and how did you get it?
3. When it came to a career, how did you decide what you wanted to do?
4. What was the primary factor for you in your choice of career? Money? Passion? Free time? Travel?
5. Was there anyone who had a special impact on your work?
6. What was the best job you ever had? The worst?
7. Did your career have any major turning points?
8. What were the best moments of your working life? Any regrets?
9. Any stories, anecdotes or details from your work that you'd like to include in your memoir?
10. If you are retired – what's it like? How do you fill your days?

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## Your Life

1. Other than family, who are the most important people in your life?
2. What makes you laugh?
3. Do you have a favorite book or author?
4. A favorite movie? A favorite food? Type of music? Ice cream flavor?
5. Do you have any hobbies, sports or favorite games?
6. What are your 4 favorite, special, home-made recipes? Let's preserve them for the future. Also, where are they from?
7. What things couldn't you live without?
8. What's your most treasured personal possession?
9. Is there anything you always wanted to do but never did?
10. What would your children be surprised to learn about you?
11. Talk about your health, the good and the bad from your life...also, are there any traits which might be genetic? And any remedies you want your grandkids to be aware of?

12. What were the best years of your life?

13. What do you consider to be your strongest character traits?

14. Do you believe in God? If so, talk about your faith?

15. Are you political? What are your views on things?

16. If you could do anything over in your life, what would it be? What would you do differently?

17. What are you most proud of?

18. Is there anything you would like your children to ask you, but they haven't yet? How about the other way around?

19. What stories from your life do you want to tell your grandchildren and your great grandchildren?

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## Closure

1. Would you like to write any “final words”? What is your epitaph, the first thing that people remember about you?
2. What advice do you have for your grandchildren?
3. What advice do you have for people in general?
4. What do you hope for the future?