

# Questions for Interviewing a Grandparent

## Adulthood, Identity

### *Life Events – Adulthood*

Did you go to university or college? How did you decide what you wanted to study?  
How did you decide what you wanted to do with your life?  
What was your first job? What did you like or not like about it?  
What job did you do most of your life? What did you like most about it? Least?  
How did you meet your spouse? What did you like about him/her?  
How and when did you get engaged?  
When did you get married? How old were you? Where did you get married? What was your wedding like?  
What was the first big purchase you made with your spouse?  
What makes your spouse special or unique?  
How many children do you have? When were they born? How did you decide what to name each of your children?  
What's your favorite story about each of your children?  
What is something funny or embarrassing one of your children said at an early age that you'll never forget?  
What's the most memorable family vacation you took?  
What do you remember about holiday celebrations? Is there one holiday memory that stands out in your mind?  
How did you feel about raising your children? What was the best part? The hardest part?  
What makes you proud of your children?  
How is my father/mother like me? Unlike me?  
What do you remember about me when I was born? What about when I was younger than I am now?  
What the best thing about being a parent? A grandparent?

### *Identity*

Do you know the meaning of your family name? Are there stories about the history or origins of your family name?  
Have you ever had any nicknames as a child or as an adult? Where did they come from?  
How are you like your mother? Unlike her?  
How are you like your father? Unlike him?  
What was most important to your parents?  
Do you feel you're like any of your grandparents? In what ways?  
How are your children like you? Unlike you?  
What do you think are your three best qualities? Your three worst?  
Which do you think you have the most of: talent, intelligence, education, or persistence?  
How has it helped you in your life?  
Do you have any special sayings or expressions?  
What's your favorite book and why?  
What's your favorite movie and why?  
Who are three people in history you admire most and why?  
What have been the three biggest news events during your lifetime and why?  
If you could travel into the future, would you rather see something that specifically relates to you, or something that relates to the future of the country in general? Why?  
If you could have three wishes, what would they be?  
If you won \$1 million tomorrow, what would you do with the money?  
What's the highest honor or award you've ever received?  
What's the most memorable phone call you've ever received?  
What's the best compliment you ever received?  
What kinds of things bring you the most pleasure now? When you were a younger adult? A child?  
What things frighten you now? What frightened you when you were a younger adult? A child?  
What's the one thing you've always wanted but still don't have?  
Do you feel differently about yourself now from how you felt when you were younger? How?  
What do you think has stayed the same about you throughout life? What do you think has changed?