

Questions to Enhance Patient Interaction

Here are some of our suggestions for getting a good conversation going. We encourage you to use the ones you like and to come up with your own. This list is in no particular order. Choose one of the categories below or scroll through and read them all.

GREAT QUESTIONS FOR ANYONE

- Who has been the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?
- What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?
- Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you?
- Who has been the kindest to you in your life?
- What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?
- What is your earliest memory?
- What is your favorite memory?
- Are there any funny stories your family tells about you that come to mind?
- Are there any funny stories or memories or characters from your life that you want to tell me about?
- What are you proudest of?
- When in your life have you felt most alone?
- If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would that be?
- How has your life been different than what you'd imagined?
- How would you like to be remembered?
- Do you have any regrets?
- For your great grand children listening to this years from now: is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

GROWING UP

- When and where were you born?
- Where did you grow up?
- What was your childhood like?
- What were your parents like?
- Did you have any sisters/brothers? How many? What were they like?
- What were your grandparents like?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?
- Do you remember any songs that you used to sing to? Can you sing them now?
- What is your best childhood memory? Worst?
- Who were your best friends?
- Do you have any favorite stories from your childhood?

RAISING CHILDREN

- Did you have children? How many?
- Can you describe the moment when you saw your child for the first time?
- What were your children like growing up?
- What do they do now?
- How has being a parent changed you?
- What are your dreams for your children?
- Do you remember when your last child left home for good?
- Do you have any favorite stories about your kids?

SCHOOL

- Did you enjoy school?
- What kind of student were you?
- What would you do for fun?
- How would your classmates remember you?
- Are you still friends with anyone from that time in your life?
- What are your best memories of grade school/high school/college/graduate school? Worst memories?
- Was there a teacher or teachers who had a particularly strong influence on your life? Tell me about them.
- Do you have any favorite stories from school?

LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

- Do you have a love of your life?
- When did you first fall in love?
- Can you tell me about your first kiss?
- What was your first serious relationship?
- Do you believe in love at first sight?
- What lessons have you learned from your relationships?

MARRIAGE & PARTNERSHIPS

- Are/Were you married?
- How did you meet your spouse?
- What were the best times? The most difficult times?
- What advice do you have for young couples?
- Do you have any favorite stories from your marriage or about your spouse?

WORKING

- What do/did you do for a living?
- Tell me about how you got into your line of work.
- Did you like your job?
- What did you think you were going to be when you grew up?
- What lessons have your work life taught you?
- If you could do anything now, what would you do? Why?
- Do you have any favorite stories from your work life?

FAMILY HERITAGE

- What is your ethnic background?
- Where is your mom's family from? Where is your dad's family from?
- Have you ever been there? What was that experience like?
- What traditions have been passed down in your family?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell you?
- What are the classic family stories? Jokes? Songs?

WAR

- Were you in the military?
- Did you go to war?
- What are your strongest memories from your time in the military?
- What lessons did you learn from this time in your life?