# 40 questions *for a grandparent.*

Cut-out cards that start with easy memories and climb, one step at a time, toward the stories a family most wants to keep. Each step prints on its own sheet.

## How to use the cards

1. **Print the sheets and cut along the dashed lines.**
   Card stock lasts longest, but plain paper works.
2. **Start with step 1.**
   A question about a smell, a sound or a room brings back a whole afternoon.
3. **Climb one step at a time.**
   Never open with a step 4 card. Save those for a visit when the stories are already flowing.
4. **Ask one card, then listen.**
   A long pause usually means a memory is on its way. Let them pass on any card; some questions are for another day.

## The four steps

●○○○ **Step 1: Sensory**
Smells, sounds, rooms and hands. Easy and pleasant to answer.

●●○○ **Step 2: Scenes**
Specific days, events and people, told like a scene.

●●●○ **Step 3: Meaning**
Why something mattered: turning points and changed minds.

●●●● **Step 4: Legacy**
What they learned and would pass on. Save these for later visits.

## When the answer is short

Point at one detail, then wait.

- “What did it look like?”
- “Who else was there?”
- “What happened right after that?”
- “Is there a photo of that anywhere?”

## If you record

Ask first, and say who will hear it.

The recording consent checklist covers the rest, with a family agreement to fill in together and a log for each session.

henedo.com/printables/recording-consent-checklist.pdf

**Where these questions come from**

They are questions from the Ask library in Henedo, written to climb from easy memories to meaningful ones. The Ask sends a parent or grandparent one question at a time: they answer out loud from a link, with no app, no account and no password, or write their answer instead. It is free on every Henedo plan.

Made by Henedo, a private family memory and digital legacy service. More guides at henedo.com/blog/.

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What did Sunday mornings smell like in the kitchen when you were small?

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What did you see out of your bedroom window growing up?

Place & home henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What was always on the table at the big family meal, and who made it?

Family & parenting henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What did your hands look like at the end of a working day?

Work & craft henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What song takes you straight back to being in love? Hum a few bars if you like.

Love & partnership henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What did someone make for you when you were sick in bed?

Hardship & resilience henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

Is there an object you have kept for decades? Where does it sit, and what does it look like now?

Belief & meaning henedo.com

STEP 1 · SENSORY ●○○○

What do you always carry in your pockets or your bag?

Legacy & advice henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about an ordinary day from when you were about nine. Start with where you woke up.

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

What is the most trouble you ever got into as a child? Tell it the way it actually happened.

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Describe your grandmother's or grandfather's hands. What were they usually doing?

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about the first day of your first job. Who showed you what to do?

Work & craft henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

What did you spend the first wages you ever earned on?

Work & craft henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Who taught you to do the thing you got good at? Describe them working.

Work & craft henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

How did you meet? Tell it like a scene: where you were standing, and who spoke first.

Love & partnership henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Describe the first place you lived together. What was broken, and what did you love about it?

Love & partnership henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about a family tradition and the first time you remember it happening.

Family & parenting

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about a day you moved house. What went into the car first?

Place & home

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Describe a journey you made more than once: the road, the stops, who was in the back seat.

Place & home

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about a time someone helped you when they had no reason to.

Hardship & resilience

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about a person who changed the way you see the world. Where did you meet them?

Belief & meaning

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Tell me about the day you taught someone something they still do your way.

Legacy & advice

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you? Who said it, and where were you standing?

Legacy & advice

henedo.com

STEP 2 · SCENES ●●○○

Pick one photograph of yourself and tell me what happened in the five minutes before it was taken.

Legacy & advice

henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

What were your parents like before they were parents? What did people say about them?

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

When was the first time you felt grown up, long before you were? What happened that day?

Childhood henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

What is the piece of work you are proudest of? The actual job or object, not the title.

Work & craft henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

When did you know? Not the wedding, the ordinary moment before all of that.

Love & partnership henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

What is something one of your children did that you are quietly proud of and have never said out loud?

Family & parenting henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

Which place still counts as home, even if you haven’t lived there for years?

Place & home henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

What do you believe now that you didn’t believe at twenty-five? What changed it?

Belief & meaning henedo.com

STEP 3 · MEANING ●●●○

What was a turning point: a day after which your life ran differently?

Legacy & advice henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

If the children in this family only ever knew one story from your childhood, which should it be?

Childhood

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

What is one thing from your own childhood you made sure to give the children in your life?

Childhood

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

What would you tell someone on their first day doing what you did?

Work & craft

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

What does love look like on an ordinary Tuesday, long after the wedding?

Love & partnership

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

What do you hope for the people in this family ten years from now?

Family & parenting

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

Where should this family go, once, to understand where they came from?

Place & home

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

Looking back, what turned out to matter far more than you expected?

Belief & meaning

henedo.com

STEP 4 · LEGACY

What would you like this family to still be doing in fifty years?

Legacy & advice

henedo.com