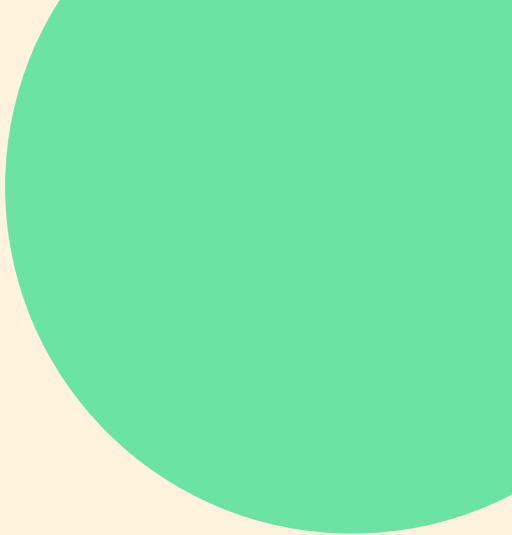




Questions to Ask Your Parents

Hear the stories behind the people who raised you before they slip away.

HOW TO USE THIS DECK

1. Print on A4. Card stock works best, plain paper is fine.
2. Cut along the grey lines - nine cards per sheet.
3. Keep the three levels in separate piles, or shuffle them together.
4. One person reads a card. Everyone answers. No skipping twice in a row.

LEVELS

Easy - 84 cards

Personal - 83 cards

Real Talk - 83 cards

FAMILY What was your favorite cereal as a kid, and are you still loyal to it? EASY 01	FAMILY Which song did you play on repeat the summer you were seventeen? EASY 02	FAMILY What's the worst haircut you ever paid money for? EASY 03
FAMILY Who was your celebrity crush growing up? EASY 04	FAMILY What did your childhood bedroom look like, down to the posters? EASY 05	FAMILY Which chore did you dodge most creatively as a kid? EASY 06
FAMILY What was the first car you ever drove, and what was wrong with it? EASY 07	FAMILY What was your go-to lunch in the school cafeteria? EASY 08	FAMILY Which cartoon did you race home to watch? EASY 09

FAMILY What did a typical Saturday morning look like when you were ten? EASY 10	FAMILY Which teacher could you imitate perfectly? EASY 11	FAMILY What fashion trend are you secretly glad you tried? EASY 12
FAMILY Did you ever sneak out of the house, and did anyone catch you? EASY 13	FAMILY What was the most expensive thing you bought with your first paycheck? EASY 14	FAMILY Which board game turned your family into sworn enemies? EASY 15
FAMILY What's a word or phrase you used constantly as a teenager? EASY 16	FAMILY How did you and your friends make plans before cell phones? EASY 17	FAMILY What was the best birthday party you ever had? EASY 18

FAMILY Which dish did Grandma make that nobody has ever matched? EASY 19	FAMILY What's the weirdest pet you or a friend ever had? EASY 20	FAMILY Who was your best friend in fourth grade, and what happened to them? EASY 21
FAMILY What did you think the world would look like by now? EASY 22	FAMILY Which family road trip still makes you laugh? EASY 23	FAMILY What was your very first job, and how much did it pay? EASY 24
FAMILY If you could relive one ordinary day from your twenties, which would it be? EASY 25	FAMILY What's a smell that instantly takes you back to childhood? EASY 26	FAMILY Be honest, what was the most rebellious thing you did at my age? EASY 27

FAMILY Which band did you see live that you still brag about? EASY 28	FAMILY How did you spend summer vacations when you were a kid? EASY 29	FAMILY What nickname did people call you that I've never heard? EASY 30
FAMILY Which dance move did you think made you look incredibly cool? EASY 31	FAMILY Looking back, what was on the menu at your wedding? EASY 32	FAMILY Where did you go on your first date together? EASY 33
FAMILY Who made the first move, and do you both agree on the story? EASY 34	FAMILY I've always wondered, what was the hardest thing about learning to drive? EASY 35	FAMILY Which movie scared you so badly you couldn't sleep? EASY 36

FAMILY What game did kids play on your street that nobody plays now? EASY 37	FAMILY Quick one: what was your favorite subject in school, honestly? EASY 38	FAMILY Did you ever win anything, even something silly? EASY 39
FAMILY Which holiday tradition did you invent yourselves? EASY 40	FAMILY What's the funniest thing I did as a toddler? EASY 41	FAMILY Which of my baby words do you still use? EASY 42
FAMILY Tell me, what was your favorite candy bar and how much did it cost? EASY 43	FAMILY How did you celebrate New Year's Eve when you were young and single? EASY 44	FAMILY Which relative told the best stories at family gatherings? EASY 45

FAMILY Thinking about it now, what was the coolest thing you owned in high school? EASY 46	FAMILY Which piece of technology blew your mind the first time you saw it? EASY 47	FAMILY What's the most trouble you ever got into at school? EASY 48
FAMILY Did you ever have a secret hideout or fort? EASY 49	FAMILY What did your parents do on weekends when you were little? EASY 50	FAMILY What's your signature dish, and where did you learn it? EASY 51
FAMILY Which vacation spot would you return to tomorrow if you could? EASY 52	FAMILY Out of curiosity, what was prom like for you? EASY 53	FAMILY Who was the funniest kid in your class? EASY 54

FAMILY What's one thing you collected as a kid? EASY 55	FAMILY Which store at the mall did you practically live in? EASY 56	FAMILY Honestly, what was your favorite toy, and do you know where it is now? EASY 57
FAMILY Which TV family did you wish you belonged to? EASY 58	FAMILY What's a skill you had as a kid that you've completely lost? EASY 59	FAMILY How did you spend snow days? EASY 60
FAMILY What's the silliest argument the two of you ever had? EASY 61	FAMILY Which song was playing the night you met? EASY 62	FAMILY Be honest, what was your first apartment like? EASY 63

FAMILY Which job would you have loved to try just for one week? EASY 64	FAMILY Looking back, what was your worst cooking disaster? EASY 65	FAMILY Who in the family has the loudest laugh? EASY 66
FAMILY What's a talent you have that I might not know about? EASY 67	FAMILY What did you dress up as for Halloween that you were proudest of? EASY 68	FAMILY Which sport did you try and quit fast? EASY 69
FAMILY I've always wondered, what was your house phone number growing up, if you remember it? EASY 70	FAMILY What's the best gift you ever received as a kid? EASY 71	FAMILY Which book did you read so many times it fell apart? EASY 72

FAMILY Quick one: what was the neighborhood like where you grew up? EASY 73	FAMILY Did you ever get lost somewhere as a child? EASY 74	FAMILY What food did you refuse to eat as a kid but love now? EASY 75
FAMILY What were your grandparents like when you were small? EASY 76	FAMILY Which family recipe should I learn before it's too late? EASY 77	FAMILY Tell me, what's the strangest thing you ever found in a thrift store or yard sale? EASY 78
FAMILY Where did you go when you wanted to be alone as a teenager? EASY 79	FAMILY What were you afraid of as a kid that seems funny now? EASY 80	FAMILY Which fad did you spend way too much money on? EASY 81

FAMILY How did you get your news before the internet? EASY 82	FAMILY What would your teenage self think of your life today? EASY 83	FAMILY If you could rename me, what name would you pick now? EASY 84
FAMILY What did you want to be when you grew up, and what changed? PERSONAL 01	FAMILY How did you know you were ready to have kids? PERSONAL 02	FAMILY What surprised you most about becoming a parent? PERSONAL 03
FAMILY What was your relationship with your own parents like? PERSONAL 04	FAMILY Which of your parents are you most like, and how? PERSONAL 05	FAMILY What did your parents do that you promised yourself you'd never repeat? PERSONAL 06

FAMILY What did your parents get right that you tried to copy? PERSONAL 07	FAMILY How did you two decide where to live? PERSONAL 08	FAMILY What's the best advice anyone ever gave you about marriage? PERSONAL 09
FAMILY Who was your first love? PERSONAL 10	FAMILY What was the scariest decision you made in your twenties? PERSONAL 11	FAMILY When did you first feel like a real adult? PERSONAL 12
FAMILY What's a belief you held strongly when you were young that you've let go of? PERSONAL 13	FAMILY Which friendship from your past do you miss most? PERSONAL 14	FAMILY How did you handle money when you were first starting out? PERSONAL 15

FAMILY



What job taught you the most about yourself?

PERSONAL 16

FAMILY



What's something you wish you'd studied or tried?

PERSONAL 17

FAMILY



How did your family talk about feelings when you were growing up?

PERSONAL 18

FAMILY



What part of parenting came naturally, and what felt impossible?

PERSONAL 19

FAMILY



Which year of my childhood was hardest for you?

PERSONAL 20

FAMILY



What did you worry about most when I was a baby?

PERSONAL 21

FAMILY



How do you think I've changed since I was little?

PERSONAL 22

FAMILY



What trait of mine reminds you of yourself?

PERSONAL 23

FAMILY



Which trait of mine reminds you of someone else in the family?

PERSONAL 24

FAMILY What were you doing at my age, and how did it feel? PERSONAL 25	FAMILY How did you decide what to name me? PERSONAL 26	FAMILY What was the day I was born really like? PERSONAL 27
FAMILY Is there a place you lived that still feels like home? PERSONAL 28	FAMILY What's a dream you put on hold for the family? PERSONAL 29	FAMILY How did you two get through your first big fight? PERSONAL 30
FAMILY What does a good day look like for you now? PERSONAL 31	FAMILY What do you think people misunderstand about you? PERSONAL 32	FAMILY Who were your heroes when you were young? PERSONAL 33

FAMILY How has your faith or sense of meaning shifted over the years? PERSONAL 34	FAMILY Which historical event shaped you most? PERSONAL 35	FAMILY What did your family struggle with that nobody talked about? PERSONAL 36
FAMILY Be honest, how did your parents show love? PERSONAL 37	FAMILY What's something you're still proud of that nobody gives you credit for? PERSONAL 38	FAMILY Were there moments you felt out of your depth as a parent? PERSONAL 39
FAMILY What did you learn from your siblings? PERSONAL 40	FAMILY If you could have one conversation with your younger self, what would you say? PERSONAL 41	FAMILY Which risk are you glad you took? PERSONAL 42

FAMILY Which risk do you wish you had taken? PERSONAL 43	FAMILY How do you want to spend your retirement years? PERSONAL 44	FAMILY What's a lesson you learned the hard way about friendship? PERSONAL 45
FAMILY Looking back, how did you know my other parent was the one? PERSONAL 46	FAMILY I've always wondered, what did you find hardest about being a couple after kids arrived? PERSONAL 47	FAMILY What family story do you think I should know better? PERSONAL 48
FAMILY Where does our family come from, as far back as you know? PERSONAL 49	FAMILY Which ancestor would you most like to have met? PERSONAL 50	FAMILY What habits did you pick up from your own parents without meaning to? PERSONAL 51

FAMILY When did you feel the most confident in your life? PERSONAL 52	FAMILY Is there something you wish I asked you about more often? PERSONAL 53	FAMILY What do you do when you feel overwhelmed? PERSONAL 54
FAMILY Who do you turn to when you need advice? PERSONAL 55	FAMILY How has your idea of success changed over time? PERSONAL 56	FAMILY Which of your accomplishments means the most to you privately? PERSONAL 57
FAMILY What's the hardest goodbye you've ever had to say? PERSONAL 58	FAMILY Quick one: how did you cope when money was tight? PERSONAL 59	FAMILY Tell me, what did you give up to raise me that I never noticed? PERSONAL 60

FAMILY What makes you feel appreciated? PERSONAL 61	FAMILY Which rule did you enforce that you now think was unnecessary? PERSONAL 62	FAMILY Were you ever jealous of a friend's life, and why? PERSONAL 63
FAMILY Describe a moment when you felt truly free. PERSONAL 64	FAMILY Thinking about it now, how did you handle it when I pulled away as a teenager? PERSONAL 65	FAMILY Tell me about a time you changed your mind about something important. PERSONAL 66
FAMILY Out of curiosity, what did you think I would grow up to be? PERSONAL 67	FAMILY How has your body or health changed the way you see life? PERSONAL 68	FAMILY Where were you when you heard the biggest news of your generation? PERSONAL 69

FAMILY What do you love about getting older? PERSONAL 70	FAMILY What do you miss about being young? PERSONAL 71	FAMILY How do you want to be remembered by your grandkids? PERSONAL 72
FAMILY Which small tradition matters more to you than people realize? PERSONAL 73	FAMILY When have you been most proud of me? PERSONAL 74	FAMILY Did you ever feel lonely as a parent? PERSONAL 75
FAMILY Why did you choose the career you ended up in? PERSONAL 76	FAMILY Which mistake taught you the most? PERSONAL 77	FAMILY Honestly, how did you make friends as an adult? PERSONAL 78

FAMILY What's a question you always wanted to ask your own parents but never did? PERSONAL 79	FAMILY Who in our family do you feel closest to, and why? PERSONAL 80	FAMILY What would you do differently if you raised kids again today? PERSONAL 81
FAMILY How do you like to be comforted when you're sad? PERSONAL 82	FAMILY Which values did you hope most to pass on to me? PERSONAL 83	FAMILY What's your biggest regret, and have you made peace with it? REAL TALK 01
FAMILY Is there anything you've never forgiven yourself for? REAL TALK 02	FAMILY What was the lowest point of your life, and how did you climb out? REAL TALK 03	FAMILY Did you ever doubt your marriage, and what kept you going? REAL TALK 04

FAMILY



**What do you wish you had said
to your parents before they
were gone?**

REAL TALK 05

FAMILY



**What's something about your
childhood that still hurts?**

REAL TALK 06

FAMILY



**When did you feel like you
failed me?**

REAL TALK 07

FAMILY



**What do you think I should
forgive you for?**

REAL TALK 08

FAMILY



**Is there anything you need to
hear from me that I haven't
said?**

REAL TALK 09

FAMILY



**What scares you most about
growing old?**

REAL TALK 10

FAMILY



**How do you feel about death,
honestly?**

REAL TALK 11

FAMILY



**Were there times you wanted
to give up on everything?**

REAL TALK 12

FAMILY



**What secret have you carried
that you're ready to share?**

REAL TALK 13

FAMILY



**What part of yourself did you
hide to be a good parent?**

REAL TALK 14

FAMILY



**Did you ever feel you weren't
enough for this family?**

REAL TALK 15

FAMILY



**Which loss changed you most
deeply?**

REAL TALK 16

FAMILY



**How did grief change the way
you love people?**

REAL TALK 17

FAMILY



**What do you want me to know
if you're not around to tell me?**

REAL TALK 18

FAMILY



**When did you last cry, and
why?**

REAL TALK 19

FAMILY



**What did your parents never
understand about you?**

REAL TALK 20

FAMILY



**Is there a relationship in your
life you wish you could repair?**

REAL TALK 21

FAMILY



**What do you think you
sacrificed that you'll never get
back?**

REAL TALK 22

FAMILY



How did you keep going on the days you felt broken?

REAL TALK 23

FAMILY



What's a fear you've never admitted out loud?

REAL TALK 24

FAMILY



Were you ever afraid I would turn out like you in a bad way?

REAL TALK 25

FAMILY



What pain did you try hardest to protect me from?

REAL TALK 26

FAMILY



Which choice of mine worried you the most?

REAL TALK 27

FAMILY



Did you ever feel like you lost yourself in raising a family?

REAL TALK 28

FAMILY



What would make the rest of your life feel complete?

REAL TALK 29

FAMILY



Do you feel you've lived the life you wanted?

REAL TALK 30

FAMILY



Which apology have you been waiting years to receive?

REAL TALK 31

FAMILY



**What did you need as a kid
that no one gave you?**

REAL TALK 32

FAMILY



**Were you ever truly afraid for
our family's future?**

REAL TALK 33

FAMILY



**How do you want your final
years to look?**

REAL TALK 34

FAMILY



**What wishes should I honor
when the time comes?**

REAL TALK 35

FAMILY



**Where do you find hope when
things look dark?**

REAL TALK 36

FAMILY



**What have you never told me
about your own mother or
father?**

REAL TALK 37

FAMILY



**How did your parents' mistakes
shape the way you raised me?**

REAL TALK 38

FAMILY



**What moment in our family do
you wish you could redo?**

REAL TALK 39

FAMILY



**Is there anyone you still love
that you lost touch with?**

REAL TALK 40

FAMILY



**What would you want to hear
from me at the end of your life?**

REAL TALK 41

FAMILY



**What part of your story are you
afraid will be forgotten?**

REAL TALK 42

FAMILY



**When did you feel most
unseen by the people you
loved?**

REAL TALK 43

FAMILY



**What's the hardest truth you've
learned about yourself?**

REAL TALK 44

FAMILY



**Were you ever disappointed in
me, and did you tell me?**

REAL TALK 45

FAMILY



**How did you survive the
hardest year of your marriage?**

REAL TALK 46

FAMILY



**What do you think happens
after we die?**

REAL TALK 47

FAMILY



**Which dream of yours quietly
died, and do you still mourn it?**

REAL TALK 48

FAMILY



**What's the bravest thing you've
ever done that no one saw?**

REAL TALK 49

FAMILY



**Do you ever feel lonely now,
even with all of us around?**

REAL TALK 50

FAMILY



**What would you say to me if
you knew this was our last
conversation?**

REAL TALK 51

FAMILY



**How can I care for you better
as you age?**

REAL TALK 52

FAMILY



**Is there something you've kept
from me to protect me?**

REAL TALK 53

FAMILY



**What do you still hope to
become?**

REAL TALK 54

FAMILY



**Be honest, what do you wish
you'd known about love before
you married?**

REAL TALK 55

FAMILY



**Did you ever feel trapped by
the responsibilities you
carried?**

REAL TALK 56

FAMILY



**Which part of your childhood
do you hope stayed with me?**

REAL TALK 57

FAMILY



**Which part of your childhood
did you work hard to end with
you?**

REAL TALK 58

FAMILY



**What does it feel like watching
your kids become adults?**

REAL TALK 59

FAMILY



**What are you most afraid I'll
regret?**

REAL TALK 60

FAMILY



**What gives your life meaning
at this point?**

REAL TALK 61

FAMILY



**Which of your wounds do you
think I inherited?**

REAL TALK 62

FAMILY



**How did you forgive your own
parents, if you have?**

REAL TALK 63

FAMILY



**Looking back, what do you
wish we talked about more as
a family?**

REAL TALK 64

FAMILY



**When were you proudest to be
my parent, even if you never
said it?**

REAL TALK 65

FAMILY



**What have I taught you without
realizing it?**

REAL TALK 66

FAMILY



**Was there a time you felt like
you were barely holding the
family together?**

REAL TALK 67

FAMILY



Which words do you want engraved on your heart, or your headstone?

REAL TALK 68

FAMILY



How do you want us to grieve you?

REAL TALK 69

FAMILY



What is one thing you'd change about how you loved me?

REAL TALK 70

FAMILY



What has aging taken from you that you rarely mention?

REAL TALK 71

FAMILY



If you could spend a single day with someone who has died, who would it be?

REAL TALK 72

FAMILY



What unfinished business still weighs on you?

REAL TALK 73

FAMILY



I've always wondered, what do you think I don't know about how much you love me?

REAL TALK 74

FAMILY



What was the moment you realized your own parents were just people?

REAL TALK 75

FAMILY



Is there a question you're afraid I'll ask you?

REAL TALK 76

FAMILY



What would you want your legacy to be in one sentence?

REAL TALK 77

FAMILY



What does home mean to you now, compared to when you were young?

REAL TALK 78

FAMILY



What would you do with the time you have left if nothing held you back?

REAL TALK 79

FAMILY



How did you find the strength to start over after something ended?

REAL TALK 80

FAMILY



Quick one: is there a promise you made that you couldn't keep?

REAL TALK 81

FAMILY



What conversation between us have you been putting off?

REAL TALK 82

FAMILY



Now that I'm grown, how do you hope our relationship will change?

REAL TALK 83