

Interview a Grandparent

(or grandparent-like-figure)

1. To get the most from your family history session, be as prepared as possible.
2. Inform the person of the purpose of the interview, who will see it, and how it will be used.
3. It's a good idea to use a voice or video recorder either on your phone, computer or tablet). That way it also becomes a keepsake for the family.
4. Photos, mementos, or other visual aids are great memory-joggers. Ask your person(s) to prepare some in advance.
5. Listen attentively and gently; ask questions of clarification (please do not try to force them to talk about something they are uncomfortable discussing).
6. Two challenges for you in this interview will be 1. to capture the stories in a structured, logical way and 2. is to make sure that the stories are as complete as possible and contain facts (names, dates, places), fully-drawn characters, a story line, and perhaps even a finale.

Below is a list of 50 questions to help you with your interview, but don't worry, you don't have to ask them all. If they have no answers for certain questions, that's ok! Just have them answer as many as they can.

Important to note: *this interview is for you and your family, so whichever language they feel most comfortable using, please do. Find a family member to help interpret for you.*

Finally enjoy your time going through your person's life story.

Happy interviewing!

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