

Best to be printed with 6–8 cards on a single sheet of paper.

“♣” marks questions to be avoided if you prefer a rather positive experience.

Based on Nick Crocker’s “Around the Table – 101 ways to kick off the best family dinner table game.”

<https://medium.com/things-ive-written/around-the-table-ea8b520683c5>

LaTeX and website adaption by André Miede <https://github.com/amiede/aroundthetable>

Are you happy with  
your life for the most  
part right now?

At what point in your  
life did you realize you'd  
become an adult?

Describe something  
that's happened in your  
life for which you have  
no explanation.

Describe your biggest failure so far.

Do you remember your favorite teacher? Tell us about them.

Do you think you control your own destiny? Give an example from your life to validate this.

For what in your life do  
you feel most grateful?



Give me an example  
where you sought to  
improve yourself in the  
past few years.

Growing up, what was the thing you did that got you into the most trouble?

What is something  
powerful you learned  
from your mother?

What is something  
powerful you learned  
from your father?

How do you recharge?

How do you see your  
life 10 years from now?  
You'll be....

How do you think your  
childhood compares to  
other people's?

How do you think your  
coworkers see you?



How would you explain  
your basic life  
philosophy?

How would your peers  
have described you in  
high school?

If money was no object,  
what would you do  
differently?

If we're sitting here a  
year from now  
celebrating what a great  
year it's been for you in  
this role, what did you  
achieve?

If you could go back and  
be any age for a week,  
what age would that be?

If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?

If you could have  
personally witnessed  
any historical event,  
what would you want to  
have seen and why?



If you had to work on only one project for the next year, what would it be?

If you were to tell one person “Thank You” for helping you become the person you are today, who would it be and what did they do?

Tell me about a mistake that you made, either work or personal, that taught you a significant lesson.

Take three minutes to  
describe what your life  
was like growing up.

Tell me about someone  
you envy.

Tell me about someone  
you really admire.

Tell the story of  
something bad that  
happened to you that  
turned out to be for the  
best.

Tell us about a time  
when things didn't go  
the way you wanted or  
a project that didn't  
turn out how you had  
hoped.



What movie/ TV show/  
creative work has had  
the most impact on  
your life?

What accomplishment  
are you most proud of?

What are three things in  
your life that make you  
really happy?

What are you most  
proud of?

What characteristic do  
you most admire in  
others?

What do you like least  
about yourself?

What do you miss most  
about being a child?

What do you love most  
about your life?



What do you love most  
about yourself?

What do you wish you  
had more time to do?

What does your life say  
about you?

What embarrasses you  
about yourself?

What has been the  
hardest thing you've  
had to do?

What has been your  
biggest challenge?

What have been the  
happiest times in your  
life?

What is most uncertain  
in your future?



What is something you  
learned in the past  
year?

What is the greatest  
accomplishment of  
your life?

What is the habit you  
are proudest of  
breaking?

What is the most  
memorable class you  
have ever taken or  
lesson you have ever  
learned?

What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten? Describe how you came to be eating it.

What is the toughest job  
you have ever had?  
How did you handle it?

What is your biggest  
success up until now?

What is your favorite  
memory?



What is your greatest strength and greatest weakness?

What is your wildest dream? What sits at the edge of possible, but at the beginning of impossible?

What kind of boss do  
you work best with?  
What kind of boss do  
you aspire to be?

What kind of holidays  
do you like? Which  
holiday has most  
resembled your ideal?

What kind of impact do  
you believe you have on  
people?

What more are you  
wanting in your career  
right now?

What movie or novel  
character do you most  
identify with?

What one thing about you do you want in your eulogy? (A speech in praise of a person, e.g. one who recently died or retired.)



What one thing would  
you change if you had  
to do it over?

What quality in you  
would you love to see  
emulated in your  
children?

What story would your  
best friend/ brother/  
partner/ sister/ mother/  
father tell about you if  
someone asked them to  
tell a memorable one?

What was the last  
experience that made  
you a stronger person?

What would you be  
doing if you weren't at  
your current job?

What would you most regret not having done by the end of your life?

What's the best  
compliment you have  
received?

What's something most  
people don't know  
about you?



What's something you  
wish everyone knew  
about you?

What's the best decision  
you ever made?

What's the best gift  
you've ever given?

What's the best gift  
you've ever received?

What's the biggest  
personal change you've  
ever made?

What's the highest  
leverage use of your  
time and talent?

What's the most  
important lesson you've  
learned in the last year?

What's the stupidest  
thing you've ever done?



What's your earliest  
memory?

When have you been  
most satisfied in your  
life?

When you look at a restaurant menu, what items are you scanning for and why?

When you think about  
your future, what most  
scares you?

Where do you most  
want to travel, but have  
never been? (Pick a Top  
3)

Who in your life has influenced you the most? How did they do it?

Who is your hero? Who  
is your role model, and  
why?

Who's your best friend?  
Give an example of how  
special they are.



Would you recommend  
your career to other  
people? Why / Why not?

Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. You have time to safely save any one item. What would it be?

Tell me something  
that's true, that almost  
nobody agrees with you  
on. (P. Thiel)

What message would  
you put on a billboard  
for millions to see? (T.  
Ferriss)

What would someone  
who doesn't like you say  
about you? (S.  
McChrystal)

What does home  
("Heimat") mean for  
you? (UO)

♣ Which are the “other lives” that torture you most?

♣ What's the scariest  
thing you've ever done?  
What's the scareddest  
you've ever been?



♣ What's the most money  
you've ever lost?

♣ What's the sickest you  
have ever been?

♣ What's the worst gift  
you've ever given?

♣ What is the most terrible memory you're willing to share?

♣ What is the thing in  
your life that most  
makes you sad?

♣ Tell me about  
something you really  
regret.

♣ Tell me about the worst punishment you had when you were a child.

♣ Name the most terrifying moment of your life so far?



♣ If you found out today  
you were going to die in  
a year, what would you  
do differently  
tomorrow?

♣ If you knew that in one year you would die suddenly, would you change anything about the way you are now living? Why?

♣ What quality in you  
would you hate to see  
emulated in your  
children?

♣ If you were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would you most regret not having told someone?