



10 Conversation Tips for Your StoryCorps App Interview

Using the StoryCorps app to record a conversation is a great way to learn more about someone in your life. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of the experience.

1. PLAN YOUR QUESTIONS

Before recording anything, use the app's question generator to **plan your questions (or write your own)**. If you can, share them with your partner in advance. This simple preparation will help you get the most out of your time together.

6. TELL A STORY

Don't hesitate to **tell a story** about your partner, and try to bring up your favorite shared memories. This can be a time to tell your partner how much he or she means to you or discuss something you've always wanted to talk about.

2. ASK WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Click the record button and begin by introducing yourself and your partner. Then **ask a few warm-up questions** like "Where were you born?" or "Can you describe the first time we met?" The app contains several warm-up questions to help you get into the flow of your conversation.

7. SET UP CONTEXT

Keep in mind that future listeners may not be familiar with specific people and places you mention. **Set up context** where needed with questions like "Who was Uncle Steve?" and "Why was he such an influence on you?"

3. ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Notice that the question generator generally provides **open-ended questions** that don't assume the answers. This lets the storyteller steer you toward what is most important to him or her. Use language like "Tell me about..." or "What was it like when..."

8. ENCOURAGE VIVID DETAILS

Questions that **encourage vivid details** can make the story special. Some examples are: "What did your kitchen smell like when you were growing up?" or "What images stand out when you think about Granddad?"

4. ASK FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

While the app will prompt you with new questions, **be prepared to ask follow-ups** or divert from your planned question list if you're curious about something. A memory about work can be followed up with "What are you most proud of in your career?"

9. PLAN SOME REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

Keep an eye on the app's timer so that you are aware of when there are 10 and 5 minutes left. **Plan some reflective questions** as the interview wraps up, such as "Looking back, what were the happiest times?" or "What advice would you give me about being a parent?"

5. THINK OF IT AS A CONVERSATION

Speak normally and address the person you are interviewing. There is no right or wrong thing to talk about, as long as it's meaningful to you.

10. RELAX AND HAVE FUN

Most of all, **relax and have fun**. Enjoy the opportunity to share the stories, thoughts, and emotional closeness that come with this experience.