

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

“■” marks questions IMHO 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.

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 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 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 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 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'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?

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.  
(Peter Thiel)

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

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

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

■ Describe your biggest failure so far.



■ Tell me about  
someone you envy.

■ What do you like least about yourself?

■ What embarrasses you  
about yourself?

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

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

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

■ What's the scariest thing you've ever done? What's the most scared 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?