



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

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قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

المادة: الاستماع والتحدث

عنوان المحاضرة: Asking about official procedures

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## **Asking about official procedures: What a lot of red tape!**

### **1. Introduction**

One of the main reasons why citizens complain is because of bureaucratic red tape. Bureaucrats may view administrative activities, processes, and procedures as merely policy outcomes, but for citizens, they are the primary reasons for their disapproval of public administration. This chapter gives a theoretical framework for understanding bureaucratic red tape, as well as its definition, scope, causes, and effects.

### **2. When to use the expression**

Use the phrase *red tape* when you're talking about something that takes much longer than it should and involves more procedures, forms, or rules than make sense.

Applying for a passport or a driver's licence is well known for the amount of red tape involved. In other words, there are lines to stand in, forms to fill out and sign, and various proofs of identity required. Most people complain about the red tape they deal with when they're registering a car or buying a house, working with an impersonal business or government branch. The term comes from the actual red tape that was used to bind documents in colonial America and in Great Britain.

The expression is used for official routine or procedure marked by excessive complexity which results in delay or inaction

bureaucratic *red tape*

... enterprisers that show how people across the Nation are coping (or not coping) with such problems as unemployment, the budget deficit and Government *red tape*.—John Weisman

... pompous officials (often lowly clerks) in love with *red tape* who delight in obstructing the expedition of what should be simple procedures.—Norman W. Schur

Initial plans became irretrievably mired in the *red tape* of building permissions.—Bella Pollen

Their plan is simple enough and none too glamorous: create a Web site to help people cut through red tape; i.e., pay for parking tickets and so on.—Sarah Kerr

### **3. Origin**

Red tape is an expression used to describe excessive, stiff, or superfluous regulations, compliance with formal norms or standards, or bureaucracy that is said to obstruct or delay activity or decision-making is known as red tape.

Usually, it refers to governmental bodies, businesses, and other major organisations. Filling out paperwork, getting licences, having several persons or committees approve a choice, and various low-level restrictions that make running one's affairs slower, more challenging, or both are examples of things that are sometimes referred to as "red tape".

By a meta-analysis and meta-regression in 2021, it was determined that red tape hindered organisational performance and employee wellbeing across nations and situations, and that internal red tape imposed by the organisation itself on its employees was particularly deleterious. An associated idea is administrative.

It is generally accepted that the word "red tape" first appeared during the early 16th century Spanish administration of Charles V, King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor, who began to employ it in an effort to modernise the administration in charge of his enormous kingdom. The most significant administrative files were bound with red tape to distinguish them from others that were handled in an ordinary administrative manner and were bound with regular string. These files required rapid discussion by the Council of State.

The other modern European monarchs immediately imitated Charles V's strategy of employing red tape to divide the crucial dossiers that needed to be considered, even though they were not in charge of such a wide realm.

#### **4. Basic Work Conversation Starters**

Official procedures and work involve certain style of conversation, here are some of good starters for such conversations:

**1. How are you doing? How's the family?**

Talking about one's family is very popular. You can strike up a discussion by inquiring about someone's family or by telling a fascinating or amusing tale from your youth! This is always an excellent topic of conversation.

**2. What do you do for fun?**

This question is suggested by the Assist since it is brief and simple to respond to. Additionally, it aids in improving your personal relationships with both your superiors and coworkers. Additionally, it might spark some entertaining discussions regarding interests and hobbies!

**3. Any travels coming up?**

Making friends with people from all over the world and seeing new things are two major benefits of travel. Talking with coworkers and colleagues about favourite vacation spots and recommending places that they should all visit when they're ready for some adventure is an engaging discussion starter.

**4. How long have you been with the company?**

This works nicely for starting a discussion with someone you don't know all that well. It will let you get to know each other better and provide everyone a chance to talk about their professional experiences.

**5. How's your workload been recently?**

Even though some individuals dislike discussing work after hours, this inquiry demonstrates curiosity and sincere concern for the person's workday, effort, time, and general well-being. They can also discuss what makes them happy at work, what annoys them, or whether this is or is not their dream job.

#### **6. What is at the top of your bucket list?**

This is a fantastic open-ended question that enables the other person to speak freely and describe what they actually want to achieve, whether it's travelling to a far-off place, obtaining a new position, embarking on a new adventure with a group of people, or anything else.

#### **7. What superpower do you wish you could have?**

This one transports anyone to the land of "Anything Is Possible" and enables them to visualise how their life may be different if they were to obtain a certain superpower they are after or that they really need. This query will also cause a lot of chuckles, which will liven up the discourse and add humour.

*For more information you can see:*

<https://snacknation.com/blog/conversation-starters-for-work/>