Do you know the idiom ‘beat around the bush’?
Do you know what ‘beat around the bush’ means?

When we say someone is ‘beating around the bush’ we mean that they are stalling and not making their point.

This may be avoiding answering a question or attempting not to reveal certain information.

There are some words that are similar to this idiom:
- stalling
- delay tactics.
Origins: the story

This phrase originated in the medieval period. Men were paid to use sticks to beat around bushes in a hunting area to flush out animals taking cover underneath. Doing this would make it easier for the hunters to target them.

The men would have tried to avoid hitting the bushes directly as this could be dangerous – imagine hitting a nest of bees!
Examples

1. Just ask me the question, don’t beat around the bush!

2. As the meeting went on, it was clear our client was beating around the bush and avoiding making a direct answer.
Consider

• When have you, or someone you know, beat around the bush?

• How did your behaviour affect the situation?
• How did it affect how you felt during and after the situation?

• When might it be useful to beat around the bush?
• Are there any times that we shouldn’t beat around the bush?