Do you know the idiom ‘cut to the chase’?
Do you know what ‘cut to the chase’ means?

When we say ‘cut to the chase’ we mean that the person we are talking to should get straight to the point they are trying to make and leave out any unnecessary details or small talk first.

Another phrase that means the same thing is: ‘don’t beat around the bush’.
Origins: the story

This phrase originated in the American film industry around the 1920s.

Silent films with romantic storylines commonly had a chase scene as a climax of the action. Some screenwriters and directors who lacked experience would often fill out or extend scenes with unnecessary dialogue. This phrase was used in a literal way to direct films to literally ‘cut’ from one part of the film to the chase sequence.

So ‘cut to the chase’ was used to mean ‘get to the point’ or the interesting and exciting bit without any delays!

In its idiomatic form, it has been used since the 1940s.
Examples

1. Just cut to the chase and tell me what happened!

2. The manager stood up and said, ‘I’ll cut to the chase. Our finances aren’t good and we will have to make redundancies. It’s going to be a tough time for all of us.’
Consider

• When have you (or someone you were speaking to) cut to the chase?

• How did this approach affect the situation?
• How did it affect how you felt during and after the situation?
  • How did it affect the person you were talking to?

• When might it be useful to cut to the chase?
• Are there any times that we shouldn’t cut to the chase?