

Unit 5

What a lot of red tape!

Get ready to listen and speak

- Look at the pictures and identify the documents. Which of these documents do you have?
- Have you ever needed to get a permit or visa?



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A Listening – Contacting the visa office

- Imagine you are on holiday in the UK. You call the UK Visa section to find out what visa you require to study there. Listen to this recorded announcement. Which number should you press to continue your enquiry?
- Now listen to the next part of the message. Take notes of all the important information.

Did you know ...?
 'Red tape' describes official rules and processes. It is often used in a negative way, when these processes seem time-consuming and unnecessary, e.g. *My visa application took ages because there was so much red tape.*

Learning tip
 When you take notes, note only the key words. Listen closely for any numbers, times, dates, names and addresses. Use abbreviations and symbols wherever possible. You can use your own abbreviations as well as standard ones.



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B Listening – Enquiring about a visa

1 **144** Yuki, from Japan, is on holiday in England. She phones the UK Visa section to ask about getting a Student Visa for the UK. Number her questions (a–f) in the order you hear them (1–6).

- a Can I work if I have a Student Visa?
- b How much is it?
- c What do I need to do to get a visa?
- d Can you tell me if I need a visa? 1
- e What do you mean by 'supporting documents'?
- f How do I apply?

2 **144** Now listen again and note the answer to each question.

- 1 Yes, she needs a visa.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

C Speaking – Making sure you understand

Speaking strategy: Asking for clarification

1 Look at this extract from the conversation between Yuki and the visa officer. Underline the expression she uses to ask the visa officer to explain a term she doesn't understand.

Visa officer: ... with your passport, two recent colour passport-sized photos and the necessary supporting documents.
 Yuki: Sorry, what do you mean by 'supporting documents'?

2 Here are some other expressions you can use.

What exactly does ... mean?
 I'm sorry. Can you explain what ... means?
 Sorry. I don't understand. What are ...?

Speak up!

3 **145** Imagine you are speaking to a UK visa official. Listen to each statement and use the expressions above to ask for clarification. Then listen to the answer.

Example
 You hear: You'll need entry clearance to come to the UK.
 a
 You say: What exactly does 'entry clearance' mean?
 You hear: Entry clearance means official permission to enter the country, so a visa or entry clearance certificate.

- a entry clearance?
- b IAS?
- c UK Mission?
- d the Schengen area?
- e an EEA country?

Focus on ... official language



Imagine you are applying for a visa. Here are some phrases you may hear. Complete each sentence with a word or phrase from the box.

status run out signature print
 register official fill in origin

- a The official dealing with your application is at counter 17.
- b Please this form and take a ticket.
- c Your passport will in a few months. You need to renew it.
- d If you want to make an application then you have to first.
- e We need your at the bottom of every page.
- f Can you your name in block capitals please?
- g What's your marital ?
- h Please put your name and country of

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D Listening – Applying for a green card in the US



1 Listen to this US immigration official talk about how to get permanent residency in the US. What are the three main ways you can get a green card?

	Ways of obtaining a green card	Requirements
1		
2		
3		

2 Now listen again and note the requirements for each type of green card application.

3 Read the requirements. Then listen and number each requirement (a–e) in order (1–5).

- a Your US employer must file Form ETA 750. 1
- b Your employer must send in Form I-140.
- c The Department of State must approve your Immigrant Visa Petition.
- d The Department of Labor must approve the request.
- e You are given an Immigrant Visa Number.

4 Look at the list below. Listen and tick which things are also needed in order to get permanent residency in the US.

- | | |
|---|--|
| birth certificate <input type="checkbox"/> | fingerprints <input type="checkbox"/> |
| driving licence <input type="checkbox"/> | a physical <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ID Card <input type="checkbox"/> | an interview <input type="checkbox"/> |
| biographical information <input type="checkbox"/> | marriage certificate <input type="checkbox"/> |
| passport <input type="checkbox"/> | a work permit <input type="checkbox"/> |
| two colour photos <input type="checkbox"/> | a letter from your employer <input type="checkbox"/> |

Did you know ...?

A green card is not actually green in colour! It gives a non-US citizen permanent resident status in the US. This gives them the same rights as a US citizen, and means they can live, work and study there legally. In some states they can even vote in elections.

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E Speaking – Giving explanations

Speaking strategy: Being concise and to the point

- 1 If you have an interview for a visa or permit, you will need to answer questions that the officials may have regarding your application. Should you ...
- keep your answers short and to the point?
 - talk a lot, giving all the information you can think of?

Speak up!

- 2  Read situations 1 and 2 below. For each situation, imagine you are having an interview with an immigration official. Listen to five questions and answer each one as clearly and precisely as you can.

Example

You hear: So, when did you arrive in France? a

You say: Three weeks ago.

- You are travelling through Europe on holiday. You've been in France for three weeks and really like it. You want to stay longer so you have found a job in a supermarket. You need to apply for a temporary work permit. You intend to leave in a few months to continue your trip around Europe. You have all the necessary supporting documentation.
- You are studying sociology at university in Canada. You need to get a job to support yourself for the next year while you study. You have found a job in a local restaurant but you need a work permit to work off campus. You haven't got a Social Insurance Number.

Class bonus

- Prepare to role play an interview for a visa. Decide with your partner who will be the interviewer and who will be the applicant.
 Interviewer: Make a list of questions to ask. You can use the questions in this unit to help you.
 Applicant: Prepare for the interview. Anticipate what questions you may be asked and practise your answers. Use the guidance in this unit to help you.
- Now role play the interview. When you finish, swap roles.

Extra practice

Imagine an English-speaking friend wants to work in your country. Go on the Internet and find out how to apply for a work permit. Make notes, then imagine you are explaining this to your friend. Talk about what they need to do. If possible, record what you say and listen to yourself afterwards. Can you identify any areas you could improve, e.g. grammar, pronunciation, etc.?

Can-do checklist

Tick what you can do.

I can enquire about official procedures, e.g. how to apply for a visa.

I can understand explanations of the various steps involved in official processes.

I can answer questions clearly and concisely.

Can do

Need more practice