



How to Inspect a Used Vehicle like a PRO Checklist

The Car Basics:

Year of Vehicle	
Make of Vehicle	
Model of Vehicle (any options?)	
Asking Price/Phone# Email	\$ Phone Email
Trade-in Value / Private Party Value	Trade-in \$ Private Party \$

The Body:

Dents	
Windshield (chips or cracks?)	
Headlights (foggy?)	
Is the Registration Current?	
Rusty Brake Rotors?	
Is the Vin Plate intact and Matching?	
Do the doors and body panels have vin stickers? Do they match?	

The Wheels:

Tire Tread Minimum is 2/32	
All 4 tires/wheels matching?	
Wheel/tire damage? Where is the damage	

The Interior:

Rips on seats	
Car Options (Navi, sunroof, etc)	
Headliner (saggy?)	
Automatic/Manual	
Steering wheel (worn?)	

Under the Car:

Leaks (near engine and rear diff)	
Rust (exhaust, frame, body, etc)	
Suspension (tie rods, ball joints, shocks, axle, etc)	
Frame Damage (from collision)	Frame Damage (from Accident?)

Additional notes:

What needs repairs?	Cost of repairs
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Total of repairs	\$ _____

Estimated Cost of total repairs needed: \$

Is the color of the vehicle desirable and attractive? Adjust offer price if color is not popular and increase if color is high demand.

Asking Price minus your estimate cost of repairs should be your offer price



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Checklist - **RANDOMFIX**

Questions to ask the owner (make sure story is realistic and answers questions consistently)

- 1.) How long have you owned the car?
- 2.) Why are you selling it?
- 3.) Does everything work/any problems
- 4.) Any service records, what have you done since owning the car?
- 5.) What did you use the car for?
- 6.) How many miles did you put on it when you owned it?
- 7.) What car are you looking to get now? Why?
- 8.) How pairs of keys does the seller have?
- 9.) Is the vehicle a clean title?
- 10.) Does the vehicle have a timing belt? Is yes, has it been replace?
- 11.) Does the seller have current emission test? (within 90 days)

Things to Bring:

-Gloves -OBDII Scanner -Magnet or Paint Meter -Flashlight -Paper towel -Pen

From your Research:

Value of the Car (trade in value):			
Vin Check www.Autocheck.com (BEST CHOICE) or www.Carfax.com or https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls			

Engine(start cold, let it warm-up for a long time, go for ride, Let engine run for a while after returning from test drive)

Scan Engine with OBDII Scanner (P1000= codes cleared recently on some makes like Fords)			
Before Startup			
Hood pops open easily?		Hood support/struts work?	
Frame (straight, no kinks)		Clean vs Dirty (was the engine detailed)	
Inspect for leaks (oil, coolant, transmission)		Any damage/new parts	
Oil level and oil (no metal, not frothy milk peanut butter)		Oil Cap (no froth under cap)	
Check Coolant (When the motor is cold)		Hoses, belts, battery post, wires, etc	
Is THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT WORKING? It should turn off after 5 seconds once the motor is running.		Are there any Modification to Emissions? Intake ? Exhaust ? Headers? Turbos?	

Cold Startup			
Any strange noises/smoke? (ticking, grinding, etc)		Does it take too long to start?	
Does the motor move a lot (bad motor mounts)		Check under oil cap (strong pulses/smoke)	
Idle (does the idle drop and smooth out)		Check exhaust for smoke upon startup	
Warm Startup			
Any strange noises/smoke? (ticking, grinding, etc)		Does it take too long to start?	
Check under oil cap (froth / Milky looking)		Idle (does the idle drop and smooth out)	
Any permanent stains on oil dipstick?		Check exhaust for smoke upon startup	

Interior

Seats: Front and Rear			
Damage, rips, tears, stains, smell		Solid / No movement	
Adjust properly (forward, back, tilt)			
Carpet: Front, rear, and trunk			
Check Under Carpets (rust, water)		Floor mats?	
Stains, holes, cuts, smell, dampness			
Trunk:			
Spare (holds air, not rusty)		Jack with lug wrench	
Spare tire carrier round (no indents)		Lug nut key (locking lug-nuts)	
Water marks, damp carpet?			
Vehicle Options:			
Power Windows (roll up/down, scratches)		Window tint (bubbles, legal)	
Power Mirrors (heat and movement)		Power Locks (all doors lock/unlock)	
Radio (am/fm/clock set right, speakers work)		AC/Heat (all settings, all vents)	
Navigation (make sure it locates)		Sunroof (opens/closes, no leaks)	
Rear View Mirror (auto-dim)		Parking Sensors (beep in reverse)	
Lights (glove box, map, dashboard, etc)		Emergency Brake Holds car in Neutral	
Heated Seats		Wipers and washer fluid work	
Check for Owner's Manual		All Gauges Work	
Headliner:			
Sagging?		Water Damage, Burns, damage	
Wear and Tear:			
Gas/Brake Pedal		Steering Wheel	
Shift Knob		Seats/Carpet	

Exterior

Lights			
High/Low Beams		Front Running Lights	
Front Fog Lights		Front Turn Signals	
Brake Running Lights		Pressed Brake Lights (3 rd brake light)	
Rear Turn Signals		Rear Fog Lights	
Bodywork			
Panel Gaps		Paint Seams on edge of panels	
Bondo (magnet and tapping methods, and best method is the paint meter)			

Tires			
Turn lock to lock		Inspect tread-wear	
Inspect camber / toe angle			

Test Drive (go for a regular drive city and highway)

Acceleration Test: smooth, no knocks or hesitation,			
Regular Acceleration		Hard Acceleration	
Turning Test			
Stationary- turn lock to lock (noise/feel)		Moving- turn 360 (noise/feel both ways)	
Turn back and forth in motion to swaycar (controlled, squeaks, knocks)		Hard turn while moving (controlled, squeaks, knocks)	
Brake Test: smooth, no pulls, no noises, no vibrations			
Regular Braking		Hard Braking (try to activate abs)	
ABS Light on dash?		Noise/pulling?	
Highway: stop and go, bumps, turns, slower			
RPM (top gear/overdrive)		Smooth/controlled/comfortable/solid	
Noises (thuds, squeaks, whines)		Downshift at cruising speed	
Cruise Control			
City: stop and go, bumps, turns, slower			
Noises (thuds, squeaks, whines)		Vibrations	
Does the car feel good to drive?		Shifting (smooth, crisp, no slipping)	
After test drive: Did the temperature gauge move passed the center point or normal operating temperature when idle with the A/C on?			
Can you hear the cooling fans when the A/C is running?			

Scan Engine after Test Drive with OBD2 Reader

ARE ALL THE I/M (Inspection Monitors) READY?

If No, Don't buy vehicle until the drive cycle is completed. Don't relay a past smog if I/M are not ready.

If in doubt get a Professional Pre-sale Inspection before handing over the money.

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