Buying a USED CAR



If you take your time to carry out an inspection plus research a vehicle's history, buying a used car can be rewarding and cost-effective. Here are some quick tips to follow.



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Look for rust, offset doors and fenders, cracks and differences in paint color

Check the interior

Inspect the interior for wear and tear and water damage and check the odometer—if it shows low mileage but the inside of the car is disheveled, the car may not be what it appears to be

Check the tires and wheels

Look for even tire wear—uneven wear could mean that the wheels or suspension are out of alignment

Look at the engine

Make sure the coolant is clear and the oil, transmission fluid and brake fluid are all the correct colors

Vehicle history

Request a Vehicle History Report, repair invoices and receipts, and registration information and be aware of all new parts

Don't rush the purchase

Take your time inspecting the vehicle and getting the necessary information—you don't want to regret a quick decision

Don't accept issues

If you see problems, mention them and request that the seller fix them—if the seller won't fix them and you're still interested in buying the car, negotiate a discount

Don't buy unseen

Always physically see the car before purchasing—pictures can be misleading

Don't listen to music

When test driving the car, make sure you don't have the stereo on—music can mask suspicious noises and rattles in the car

Don't ignore your instincts

If it feels wrong, don't be afraid to walk away—trust yourself, as there will always be another car out there for you

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