

Check list for evaluating a vehicle

	1	2	3	4	5
First impression					
Paintwork: Surface quality? Color variations? Traces of having been repainted? Thickness of coat?					
Panel gaps on hood and doors					
Sills: Corrosion?					
Chrome					
Glazing including rubber mounting					
Interior equipment and appointments					
Engine compartment: Cleanliness? Oil loss? Coolant loss? Corrosion?					
Trunk: Damp? Corrosion?					
Bodywork					
Outer sills with jack mounting points and transition to wheel arches					
Inner sills					
Front fender incl. bolt bracket					
Wheel arches					
Wheel arches, inside fenders					
Trunk lid					
Trunk: Floor, accident damage? Rust on tow hook mounting?					
Rear window frame					
Engine hood					
Engine compartment with kick panels and firewall, accident damage?					

Front apron, lower radiator support					
A-pillars					
B-pillars, sill transition					
C-pillars					
Sliding roof: Roof panel, frame incl. water drains					
Areas around trim strips					
Doors incl. floors, edges and mountings; closing mechanism					
Underbody, especially side members; mounting fixtures; indications of accident damage or repairs?					
Rear apron					
Front apron					
Detachable body parts, accessories					
Trim strips					
Front/rear bumpers					
Lights including lenses and reflectors; seals; function of height adjustment and headlamp cleaning system					
Spare wheel					
Tool kit					
Technical aspects (with test drive)					
Cold and warm starting characteristics					
Throttle response, also with cold engine; observe exhaust					
Noise from cold or warm engine, when driving or stationary					
Idling characteristics of cold or warm engine					
Manual transmission: Ease of shifting, noise					

Clutch					
Automatic transmission: Gear shifting, shift points, smell of oil?					
Brakes: Noise, fade resistance, one-sided pulling, age of brake hoses, ABS control system (if fitted),					
Parking brake: Effectiveness and free travel					
Suspension: Thumping, tolerance					
Axle components: Condition of bearing rubbers, gaiters, rust					
Steering: Effort, maximum two fingers' width play					
Loss of oil after test drive					
Coolant: Any visible traces of oil?					
Cooling system: Any leaks in hoses or water pump?					
Engine oil: Frothy?					
Spark plugs: Color, condition					
Air filter					
Electrics: Alternator, starter, battery, ignition cable, plugs, insulation, relays, control units, switches, functions					
Brakes: Linings/pads, brake lines, hoses, brake fluid					
Fuel pump, fuel hoses					
Shock absorbers and springs					
Tires, wheels: Size, age, tread pattern, damage, wear					
Exhaust system including manifold					
Drive shafts, Hardy disk					
Interior					
Seats: comfort, upholstery					
Head restraints					

Seat belts: Function, wear?					
Carpets, floor mats					
Door panels					
Dashboard: splits/cracks, surfaces, colors, fit					
Steering wheel					
Instruments					
Shift lever					
Ashtray, cigarette lighter					
Radio, loudspeakers, antenna					
Glove compartment, stowage facilities					
Heating, ventilation, air conditioning: Function, controls					
Pedal covers: Wear?					
Other					
Official vehicle documents, especially title of ownership or certificate of registration Part II					
Maintenance documentation: services, oil changes, mileage, downtime?					
Background documentation: purchasing contracts, photos, expert appraisals?					
Number of previous owners					
Owner's manual including data card					
Check chassis number and engine number (Chassis number: beginning with "107", then three-digit code: 022 (280 SLC), 023 (350 SLC), 025 (380 SLC), 024 (450 SLC), 044 (450 SLC), 026 (450 SLC 5.0))					
Seller identical with registered owner?					