

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? | | | | | |
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| 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? | | | | | |

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| 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 | | | | | |
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| 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 | | | | | |
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| 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 | | | | | |

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| 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 | | | | | |
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| Interior | | | | | |
| Seats: comfort, upholstery | | | | | |
| Head restraints | | | | | |

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| 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? | | | | | |
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| 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 | | | | | |
| Seller identical with registered owner? | | | | | |