

Viewing and test driving checklist

This checklist is designed to equip you with some useful questions to ask when viewing and test driving a car. You don't have to follow it exactly, but hopefully, it points you in the right direction.

Why are you selling the car?

- A good question to start with, as this will get the seller talking candidly about the car and will help reveal their primary motivations for letting it go.

Are there any mechanical problems I need to know about?

- This gives the seller the opportunity to let you know about any issues or flaws they've encountered with the car. Make sure you still get a maniacal inspection!

Can I take the car for an independent inspection?

- Whether buying from a private seller or car dealer, we recommend getting a pre-purchase inspection to put your mind at ease and make sure you're buying a good car.

What is the ownership history?

- It's nice to know that the car had only a few owners and has been well cared for. It's a red flag if the seller has few details to share or has owned it for a very short period of time.

Has the car been maintained?

- Ask to see paperwork for services and proof of any repaired damage. You should also make sure it has a current rego and WoF, as it's illegal to drive on the road without them.

Does the car have unpaid finance or money owing?

- We recommend getting a Vehicle Information Report (VIR), it will tell you about money owing and more. If there's money owing on the car, discuss this with the seller. Usually, they are easily paid off once the car is sold.

Does the car have any modifications or upgrades?

- Find out if the car has any special or nifty features you wouldn't expect. This could be a new radio, GPS, parking sensors, etc.

Can we fix this problem before purchase?

- If there are some existing issues, ask if they can be fixed before you buy or if the sale price can be reduced to reflect them.

Happy trading!

