

Preparation	Make a list of needed features/specification	
	Affordability check	
	Add up all costs	
	Define the complete costs	
Visit/Inspection arrangement	Book a visit during daytime	
	Be accompanied by a professional car mechanic	
	Avoid rainy days	
Body / The exterior of the vehicle	Is the vehicle clean?	
	Is the paint even and has neither dull spots nor color differences?	
	Is the car body rust-free?	
	Are there any gaps on the hoods or doors? Are they all even?	
	The tires are fine (tread depth is sufficient, they are not unevenly departed).	
	Are any of the tires a different brand or size?	
	Do you see any damage on the windshield wiper blades?	
	Check if all the lights are working.	
	Do the rims show signs of damage?	
	Are any of the trim pieces loose or missing?	
Are there any small dark spots or oily film on the bumper near the exhaust pipe?"		
Interior	Are there any tears or wear marks in the seats?	

	Are there any cracks, blemishes or broken trim?	
	Are the spare tire, jack and tools damaged or missing?	
	Do any of the windows go down or up slower than the others? Do they make noises?"	
	When the climate control is turned on, does the fan squeak or rattle or operate on only one speed setting?"	
	Turn on all the accessories (windshield wipers, radio, power mirrors, etc.). Do any fail to operate properly?"	
	Is the brake pedal worn more or less than the mileage on the odometer would suggest?"	
	Is there any rust or evidence of water in the spare-tire well?	
	Does the sunroof operate slowly, as if it's struggling to move?	
Chassis/Underbody	Are any of the inner fender shields missing or broken?	
	Is there uneven wear on any of the tires?	
	Does oil coat any of the shock absorbers?	
	Pull on the tie rods and the suspension mounts. Do you detect any movement?	
	Are the brake pads and rotors worn out?	
	Is there rust on any of the underbody surfaces?	
	Check the engine bottom. Any sign of fluid leaks?	
	What about transmission and differential leaks?	
	Is there any bent or dented metal?	
	Check the ground under the car. Are there any puddles of oil or fluid?	
	Look at the bottom of the radiator. Is it wet from coolant?	
Engine	With the engine off, squeeze the hoses. Do they feel stiff or brittle?	

	Are there cracks in the belt(s)?	
	Are there any wires not covered by sheathing?	
	Are there any loose hose clamps?	
	Are there any loose and corroded battery clamps?	
	Is the battery more than 4 years old?	
	Is the air filter dirty?	
	Are fluid levels (power steering, brake, coolant, oil and transmission) below the minimum?	
	Is there seepage at the bottom of the brake reservoir?	
	Is there sludge in the bottom of the coolant reservoir?	
	Put a drop of oil from the dipstick on a clean, dry rag. Does it appear goeey or black?	
	Are there shiny metallic particles in the oil?	
	Are there shiny metallic particles in the oil?	
	Sniff the automatic transmission fluid dipstick. Does it smell burnt?	
Test drive	Turn the key to the "on" position. Do the warning lights fail to illuminate?	
	Start the car. Do the warning lights remain on?	
	Does the airbag light stay on or blink?	
	Does the engine fail to settle into a consistent idle within a couple of minutes?	
	Automatic transmission: Put the car in drive. Does it clunk into gear?	
	Drive the car in tight circles in a parking lot. Does anything rub or clunk?	
	Brake firmly. Does the pedal feel soft and mushy?	
	Does the feel of the brake pedal change (e.g., soft one stop, firm the next)?	

	Does the car veer to one side while braking?	
	Drive over some bumps at normal speeds. Does the car bounce up and down after hitting a bump?	
	Do you hear any loud noises from the suspension, such as clunks or creaks?	
	Get up to highway speeds. Is there any vibration?	
	Is the steering wheel off-center when the car is going straight?	
	Do you hear excessive wind noise?	
	Do the interior pieces rattle over bumps?	
	Does the car pull to one side?	
	Accelerate briskly. Does the transmission jerk at the shift points?	
	Does the car accelerate in fits and starts?	
	Do you hear any knocking noises from the engine that get faster with higher engine speed?	
	Does the car feel tired, as if it's worn out?	
	Have someone watch the headlamps and marker and brake lights as you operate them. Are any burned out?	
	With your friend standing behind the car, start the engine. Is there sustained visible smoke?	
	With your friend following, drive the car. Do the wheels wobble, or does the vehicle have an odd stance (e.g., it rides low in the rear)?	
	Is there smoke coming from the exhaust during acceleration?	
	Look under the hood. Do you hear a hissing noise?	
	Check under the car again. Any sign of fresh fluid leaks?	
Kaufvertrag	Does the contract include the correct vehicle information?	
	Is the information about the seller and buyer correct? (Name, ID number, phone, address)	



Check + if positive and - if negative to get an overview at the end + / -

	Does the contract include the technical information? (Mileage, gear box, fuel)	
	Does the contract include the service inspection dates and details?	
	Is the price you agreed on with the seller mentioned in the agreement? Is the payment method mentioned too?	