

Used Car Inspection Checklist

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Take this with you when you go to see the car. Work through it in order — the line you skip in the excitement is the one that costs most later. An independent inspection is what binds; this is the screen that comes before it.

Date / location

Make, model, year

Registration

Mileage

Asking price

1 · Paperwork (if these fail, stop here)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Seller is the registered keeper | If not, who is selling and on what authority |
| ☐ No outstanding finance or write-off marker | Run the check before you travel |
| ☐ Valid roadworthiness test | Expiry date: |
| ☐ Insurance and claims history | Any recorded damage |
| ☐ Documented service history | How many records, which dates |

2 · Exterior

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ☐ Paint thickness measured | Any panel reading differently |
| ☐ Panel gaps even | Body alignment |
| ☐ Glass and light dates/brands consistent | Sign of replaced parts |
| ☐ Tyres: tread depth and DOT code | All four same brand and age? |
| ☐ Underside, exhaust, oil leaks | Actually look underneath |

3 · Interior and electronics

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Warning lights go out | They should cycle then clear |
| ☐ Air conditioning cools, heater heats | Test both |
| ☐ All windows, locks, mirrors, sensors work | |
| ☐ Seat and pedal wear matches the mileage | A mismatch may mean a clocked odometer |
| ☐ Second key present | If not, deduct the cost from the price |

4 · Test drive (15 minutes minimum, start from cold)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ☐ No abnormal noise on a cold start | |
| ☐ Gear changes smooth | Any jolt on an automatic |
| ☐ Brakes pull straight, no vibration | Try a firm stop on an empty road |
| ☐ Steering centred, no pulling | Alignment or accident damage |
| ☐ No vibration or smoke at idle | Check exhaust colour |

Negotiating points (what you found)

Fault / missing item	Estimated cost	Deduct from price

Three notes

- An independent inspection is essential: this form does not replace it, it answers whether the car is worth paying for one.
- Compare the story you are told against the paperwork. Where they disagree, it is the decision that changes, not the price.
- First job after buying: record the service history and renewal dates — that record sets the price when you come to sell.

Service and renewals reminded by date OR mileage — Odovo, one vehicle free

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