

Test Driving a Car - Checklist

BEFORE YOU START

<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance - Most dealers have insurance to cover test driving. For cars that are privately owned, it is important to ensure the owner has advised their insurer they are selling and plan to offer test drives.
<input type="checkbox"/> Rego up to date? If you test a car at a dealership, they will either have special number plates if the car isn't registered. If the car is privately owned you can do a quick online rego check at the vehicle testing center in your state.
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration. Before beginning the test drive, ask the salesperson/owner to show you around the vehicle. The finer points of a car are sometimes what seals the deal (or not).
<input type="checkbox"/> Car history check. Quiz the dealer/owner if the car is second hand. You should also do a VIN and service record check as well. If you are serious about buying the car, then the final check should be with a licensed motor mechanic.

WHEN YOU FIRST GET IN THE CAR

<input type="checkbox"/> Warning lights - look for any warning lights that stay on the dash for more than a few seconds.
<input type="checkbox"/> Brake pedal - should feel firm, not spongy.
<input type="checkbox"/> Adjust the seat. Is there enough headroom? Is the seat comfortable?
<input type="checkbox"/> Start the car - How does it start? Any lag? Always start the car with the audio off so you can listen for any random noises.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check your mirrors? Are there any noticeable blind spots?

DRIVING

<input type="checkbox"/> Test the steering. Does the wheel feel heavy? How easy is it to access the indicators, lights
<input type="checkbox"/> Listen to the engine. It is a common trick for the salesperson or owner to turn the radio on. Make sure it is off so you can listen for any unusual sounds from the engine, brakes or the suspension.
<input type="checkbox"/> How does it perform? How does it accelerate through the gears? Around corners? Is it overly sluggish? Does it stop cleanly, in a straight line?

WHAT FEATURES ARE A MUST-HAVE?

<input type="checkbox"/> Parking assistance - front and back	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver-assist technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger side and rear seat airbags	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunroof
<input type="checkbox"/> Seat warmers	<input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive cruise control
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple Play / Bluetooth connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat navigation
<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic boot opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Electric seat adjusters
<input type="checkbox"/> Good quality audio system	<input type="checkbox"/> Cup holders

For more information or advice on the next steps to purchasing your new or used car, including on how to finance it - contact Ben Miller at Express Fund on finance@expressfund.com.au or 0447 821 431.