Used Car Checklist

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# Tasks:

☐ **Know your needs**

☐ **Engine.**

*Will you be able to handle a vehicle that has a lot of miles on the engine already, or is a low-miles vehicle a need for you?*

☐ **Fuel**

*Gas consumption is a big deal now, so decide if that really matters to you.*

☐ **Style.**

*Make up your mind as to why body style of vehicle you want; is it a sedan, van or a sport coupe?*

☐ **Support**

*What type of support will you get from the place that you are purchasing the vehicle from? Some owners require a lot, others require very little, but it is a consideration.*

☐ **Know your wants**

☐ **Research your car**

*In other words, once you think you've decided on a car, check out everything there is to know about it, such as recalls and mileage.*

☐ **Be prepared**

*Flexibility in what you want will be important, because not all used cars have everything.*

☐ **Window Shop**

*Take the time to look around at more than one place; you'll be surprised at the differences in prices.*

☐ **Prioritize**

*Decide what is most important to you in a vehicle, if you absolutely can't have it all.*

☐ **Where to buy**

☐ **Research dealerships**

*Not only is word of mouth a good way to find out about dealerships' integrity, but so is the Better Business Bureau, their own websites, and the local Chamber of Commerce.*

☐ **Internet purchases**

*Quite often, you will find that searching Internet sites for salvage or auction sites will lead to great deals for a car that you might want.*

☐ **Private sellers**

*Most of time, being wary of private sellers is a wise thing, unless you know them well and trust them implicitly.*

☐ **Auctions**

*Great deals can be found at auctions, but auction houses do not always have mechanics on hand to do an adequate inspection, so getting car here is risky.*

☐ **Absolute musts**

☐ **Awareness of lemon laws**

*Know what the lemon laws are in your state, and keep track of them, just in case something happens if you buy the used car.*

☐ **CarFax report**

*Don't ever buy a used vehicle without this, or a similar report so that you know about the vehicle's past history regarding wrecks, water damage, etc.*

☐ **Help**

*Yes, take someone that is experienced in used cars along with you, and can give you a clue if what you're looking at is a heap of junk or not.*

☐ **Mechanical inspection**

*Take the vehicle to your own trusted mechanic for an inspection, it will be worth the extra money you're spending, even if you don't buy the vehicle.*

☐ **Take your time**

*Treat the buying of the used car as a fine dining experience, and seriously look over everything you can about the vehicle that you can.*

☐ **Warranty**

*Find out ahead of time what the warranty from the dealer, or seller is. Your lender may require one if you are using a private lender.*

☐ **Beware**

☐ **Double-talking salespeople**

*No matter what you do, don't let a salesperson make you feel so pressured into buying a used car, that you feel you must buy it or else. You will regret it.*

☐ **Emotional attachment**

*Developing an emotional attachment to a vehicle before you buy it is an absolute no-no.*

☐ **Time constraints**

*Whatever you do, don't go into a used-car shopping expedition as if you're going to a fast food restaurant.*

☐ **Financing**

☐ **Dealership**

*Pay attention to the deals that the dealership is offering, write them down if necessary.*

☐ **Other lenders**

*Shop around between banks, and other private lenders in comparison to the dealership, and see who can give you the best deal.*

☐ **Private**

*Remember, private sellers generally can't do financing, and prefer their money up front, so be prepared to just hand over the money.*

☐ **Cash**

*If you have the right amount of cash on hand, then go ahead and use it; by using cash, the title transfer is done immediately.*

☐ **Shop around**

*Don't buy the first car you see.*