

## Test driving a second-hand car checklist



What to check	Task	Checked? Yes/No
<b>Service history, MOT certificate</b>	Find out when the car was last serviced. View the MOT certificate for an idea of common possible issues.	
<b>Damage history &amp; previous owners</b>	If it has previously been written off, has its status been declared? How many previous owners does it have?	
<b>Mileage</b>	Check the odometer on the dashboard. Is the mileage reasonable for the age of the car?	
<b>Under the bonnet</b>	Open the bonnet and inspect the engine and its components for any damaged or missing parts.	
<b>Lights</b>	Check the headlights, fog lights, brake lights and indicators.	
<b>Exterior</b>	Look for any exterior damage to the car; are there any dents or scratches? Check the undercarriage – is there any rust or excessive dirt built up?	
<b>Interior</b>	Is the upholstery in good condition? Check that there are no stains, tears or rips.	
<b>Tyres</b>	Tyres should be correctly inflated with the minimum tread depth at 1.6mm. Is there a spare tyre in the boot?	
<b>General size</b>	Check the boot capacity. Is there enough leg room for passengers?	
<b>Transmission</b>	Check that the gears shift with ease.	
<b>Engine</b>	Does the engine make any unusual rattling or clunking sounds?	
<b>Brakes</b>	Are the brakes responsive? Do they feel spongy or make any grinding sounds?	
<b>Clutch &amp; accelerator</b>	Are the pedals responsive? Check the clutch biting point. Ideally should be 1500 rpm.	
<b>Steering and suspension</b>	Is the steering wheel easy to turn? Does it pull to one side?	
<b>Electronics</b>	Check the air conditioning and heating. Test the radio and speakers. Do all the electric windows work? Is the central locking working?	