

Buying a Used Car

Practical skills

What to check before money changes hands.

In this order, because the early steps are cheap and disqualifying.

1

Check the documents

Registration document, service history, MOT record. Names and

2

Run a history check

Outstanding finance, write-off, stolen, mileage discrepancies.

3

View in daylight, dry

Rain and dusk hide paint, rust and mismatched panels.

4

Check cold

Insist the engine is cold when you arrive. A warm engine hides

5

Test drive properly

At least 20 minutes, mixed roads, radio off.

6

Independent inspection

For anything expensive.

WALK AWAY IF

The seller will not let it be inspected

The V5C name does not match

Meeting anywhere but the registered address

Pressure to decide immediately

Educational reference. Outstanding finance stays with the car, not the seller — the finance company can repossess it from you.