

# Test Drive Checklist

Think you found your next car? Use this checklist to learn how to prepare for a test drive, as well as some helpful tips on finding a vehicle that fits your lifestyle and budget.

	✓	
<b>INTERIOR</b>		
	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1. Overall, do you like the way the vehicle looks on the inside?		
2. Work the controls and instruments. Do you like their placement and function? Make sure the controls are easy to reach and operate.		
3. Look around at the upholstery. Does it look and feel good to you? Consider fabric vs. leather vs. fake leather.		
4. Is the cargo/trunk space sufficient? Does it have appropriate access?		
5. Look at the tires. Do you like the type and brand, or will you have to change them?		
6. Is there enough headroom?		
7. Is there enough legroom? Check the front and back.		
8. Do you want a sunroof or moonroof?		
9. Get in and out of the car. Adjust the seats. Are the seats comfortable, and do you like their features (heat, automatic settings, lumbar support)?		
<b>TEST DRIVE</b>		
	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1. Research the city and highway MPG for the model you want.		
2. Drive the exact model of the car you're considering.		
3. If you're buying for power, test in real-world situations: highway merging, passing, etc.		
4. Handling: How does the car feel when you turn the wheel? Practice long and short turns, sudden swerves, and smooth transitions.		
5. How's the sound system?		
6. Salespeople have helpful information to share and can be your best resources; however, asking questions can distract your evaluation process during the test drive. Spend some time after your test drive to ask any questions you might have.		
7. Try driving on a variety of roads—winding roads, city streets, hills, and freeways—to feel how the car handles.		
8. Test the brakes. Alternate between braking softly and aggressively.		
9. Parallel park the car to check for blind spots.		
<b>WHEN YOU'RE READY TO BUY</b>		
	<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
1. Ask your salesperson to help with understanding your options based on your credit and budget.		
2. Along with the originals, bring photocopies of your driver's license, proof of insurance, and social security card (if you don't have your social security number memorized).		

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