ROSPA

accidents don't have to happen

Choosing Your First Car

THINK! Road Safety

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Before Buying a Second-hand Car

Check its History

Reduce the risk of buying a stolen or written off car by using the DVLA's online vehicle enquiry service at https://www.gov.uk/get-vehicle-information-from-dvla. You'll need the car's make and registration number.

Check its MOT status at https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-status and its **MOT history** at https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history

Check its Hire Purchase Information (HPI) information at https://www.hpicheck.com/ to make sure there is no outstanding finance on the car.

Check its safety performance at in Euro NCAP tests and if possible, choose a car with four or five stars.

Check average maintenance and depreciation costs on consumer websites; some cars are cheaper to run than others

Get one of the motoring organisations to **do a safety check**.

Before Buying a New or Second-hand Car

Test Drive it to check that you have a good, clear view while driving and when doing manoeuvres, such as reversing. Make sure you can see all the dashboard displays and comfortably operate all the controls, including the pedals. Check the car runs smoothly and you feel comfortable driving it

Get Insurance

You can reduce your insurance premiums by taking a telematics-based insurance policy. Telematics monitor the way someone is driving and provide feedback to the driver and insurance company, usually via a website or app, to help you improve your driving and reduce your insurance costs.

Where to get advice

Manufacturers' websites and brochures provide details and specifications.

EURO NCAP

Vehicle Information from the DVLA

Check MOT History

HPI Check

Motability

Consumer Programmes and Magazines also review and assess cars.

Choosing Your First Car Checklist

Driver's Position

	Y	N
I can see the dashboard displays and comfortably reach and operate the controls, including the pedals		
I have good all-round, unobstructed, visibility though the windows and the mirrors from your driving position.		
I can adjust the seat so I can easily fully depress the pedals		
I can raise or lower the seat to make the driving position more comfortable, and get a clearer view.		
I can adjust the seat and steering wheel to suit everyone who will drive the car (I don't have to sit too close (10 inches) to the steering wheel).		
I can adjust the mirrors to give a good view of the road behind		
There are no heavily tinted windows (these reduce visibility of the road)		

Crash Protection

Euro NCAP crash test cars to assess their safety performance. It gives cars an overall star rating, and rates how well they protect adult and child occupants in front and side impacts, minimise injuries to pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users and use advanced safety technology.

Overall Star Rating		**Stars**
Adult Occupant Protection Rating		%
Child Occupant Protection Rating		%
Pedestrian Rating		%
Active Safety Rating		%

Brakes

New cars are increasingly fitted with Autonomous Braking Systems which can be very effective at reducing crashes, especially low speed ones. There are different types of autonomous braking systems, with different names. Some operate in an emergency if the driver doesn't brake quickly enough; some are better at detecting pedestrians or cyclists as well as other vehicles. This car has:

	Y	N
Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) to prevent the wheels locking during heavy braking, which helps to maintain control and steering.		
Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) Systems to detect potential collisions and automatically brake, or do an emergency stop, if I do not take action.		
Pedestrian Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) Systems to detect and prevent potential collisions with pedestrians as well as vehicles.		
Traction control to help to prevent the wheels slipping and spinning on slippery surfaces like ice or snow.		
Electronic Stability Control (ESC) to prevent skids by reducing engine power and braking individual wheels if it detects a potential skid.		

Speed

Many drivers find themselves exceeding the speed limit, or driving too fast for the conditions, without realising it. This increases the chance of a crash and makes it more severe. Many cars now have technology, such as Cruise Control or Speed Warnings to help drivers maintain safe speeds. This car has:

	Y	N
Speedometer that I can easily see from my driving position.		
Cruise Control that I can set to a specific speed so the car will maintain that speed until I brake. It is designed for high speed roads rather than town and city driving, and if a vehicle ahead slows down, or a vehicle pulls in front, the cruise control will continue at its speed, so I will need to brake.		
Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), which is a more advanced cruise control that reduces my car's speed if a vehicle ahead slows down or the distance to it reduces.		
Speed Warning Technology which gives a visual and/or audible warning if I exceed a pre-set speed.		

Lane Position

Many newer cars have systems to help the driver maintain a good road position, such as Lane Departure Warning Systems, Blind Spot Information Systems or Reversing and Parking Aids. These can be useful, but the driver still needs to use good observation and judgement. This car has:

	Y	N
A Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS) that gives a warning if the car drifts out of the lane, without me using the indicator.		
A Blind Spot Information Systems that gives a warning if it detects movement behind or next to the car		
Reversing and Parking Aids		

Tyres

Tyres are the only part of the car in contact with the road, and so it is very important that they are in a good condition. Advice on tyre safety is available at www.rospa.com/roadsafety/adviceandinformation/vehiclesafety/tyresafety/. This car has

	Y	N
All tyres in good condition (no cuts or bulges)		
Tread depth of at least 3mm on all tyres		
A Tyre Pressure Monitoring System that monitors the pressure of each tyre and warns if one or more is incorrectly inflated.		
A Spare tyre		

Lighting

Car lights are developing rapidly. This car has:

	Y	N
All lights in good working order.		
Daytime running lights		
Automated lights that switch on headlights and rear lights in the dark or low light levels (eg, in a tunnel or multi story car park) if the light switch is in the automatic position.		
Adaptive Front Lighting System (AFLS) that directs the headlight beams to the direction of travel, based on the angle of the steering wheel.		

Seat Belts

Seatbelts are one of the most important safety features in a car. This car has:

	Y	N
Three point seat belts fitted on every seat.		
No damage to any of the seat belts, including the seat belt webbing.		
Seat belts fitted with pre-tensioners that tighten the webbing in a crash to remove any slack from the seat belt.		
A seat belt reminder system for the driver's seat that alerts the driver if the seat belt is not fastened.		
A seat belt reminder system for passenger seats that alerts the passenger if their seat belt is not fastened.		

Head Restraints

Head restraints help to prevent or reduce whiplash, but only if they are correctly positioned. The top of the head restraint should be as high as the top of the head and the head restraint should be as close to the rear of the head as possible. This car has:

	Y	N
Head restraints on the front seats		
Head restraints on the rear seats		

Airbags

Airbags are designed to be used in addition to seat belts, not instead of them. This car has:

	Y	N
A driver's airbag		
A front passenger airbag		
A front passenger airbag that can be switched off if a rearward-facing baby seat is being used in front.		
Side airbags		
I can sit at least 25cm (10 inches) from steering wheel so I am not too close to the airbag if it goes off.		

Child Restraints

If you carry child passengers, they must use a child seat that is suitable for their size and weight and is fitted properly. For more information about child car seats, visit www.childcarseats.org.uk. Ask the car manufacturer or dealer for a list of the child seats that will fit the car. This car has:

Child Occupant Protection Euro NCAP Rating of		**%**

	Y	**N**
My existing child car seats can be securely fitted in the car.		
A wide range of child car seats can be securely fitted in the car.		
Isofix fitting points into which my Isofix child seat can be slotted (floor compartments make it difficult to fit car seats that have a bottom leg)		
i-size ready and has a list of compatible i-size seats		

Luggage or Loads

Luggage or loads need to be properly secured so they do not come loose and injure the occupants in a crash or an emergency stop. Folding rear seats, especially split seats, may be weaker than fixed seats; some may be unable to restrain heavy loads in severe frontal collisions. This car has

	Y	**N**
Anchor point or straps in the boot to help secure loads.		
Split rear seats		

E-Call

This car has

	Y	**N**
E-Call, a system that automatically makes an emergency call if it detects a severe impact and sends the exact location of the crash.		

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