

Choosing your new car checklist

A handy checklist of things to consider when choosing your new car

Step 1 Calculate:

- Your likely fuel costs
- Advance Payments

Step 2 Review:

- How many people are going to regularly travel in your car
- If you will be doing a lot of motorway driving
- How much boot space you might need for any equipment or mobility aids you have
- Whether parking will be a problem
- Any special controls or adaptations you may need
- Which cars are suitable for you if you are aged 25 or under (restrictions apply)

Step 3 Consider:

- What body style (saloon, estate, hatchback or MPV) would suit your needs
- Whether you need petrol or diesel
- Things like seat height, door opening angle and seat belt positions, as well as other accessibility features

Step 4 Evaluate:

The shortlist of cars you are considering. Start by looking at the following:

Car 1 (Make) _____ (Model) _____

Car 2 (Make) _____ (Model) _____

Car 3 (Make) _____ (Model) _____

Getting in and out

- Can you unlock the door and operate door handles easily?
- Do the doors open wide enough and are you able to close them easily?
- Are handholds and supports suitable?
- Can you get in and out easily?
- Can you transfer to/from a wheelchair easily, if necessary?
- Does the seat fabric make it easy to get in and out?
- Are the seat height and shape correct and comfortable?
- Can the seat be adjusted and if so, how many ways?
- Are the sills low enough so you can lift your legs into the car?
- Can you stow mobility aids such as walking sticks or wheelchairs if needed?
- Is there enough headroom for yourself and other passengers?
- Can you reach and use the seatbelt comfortably?

Car 1

Car 2

Car 3

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Car features

- Which features are fitted as standard? Do they meet your requirements?
- Can you open and close the boot easily? Is it big enough?
- Can you get things in and out of the boot easily?
- Can the adaptations you need be fitted on that car?

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Out and about

- Make sure you test drive an automatic version if this is what you are considering
- Is there good all-round vision?
- Is it easy to reverse or park?
- Does it feel good to drive?

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