



01 / UNDERSTAND THE VEHICLE

Sample Buyer Check

A fictional example of how inspection findings can inform the offer conversation and purchase budget. No actual vehicle was inspected.

VEHICLE	MILEAGE	VIN
2019 Ford Escape Fictional scenario	72,480 mi Illustrative; not verified	NOT PROVIDED Identity unverified

CURRENT DECISION STATUS

More evidence needed before committing.

Vehicle condition and risk remain unknown pending an independent inspection. The observations below are invented examples, not confirmed faults or an assessment of roadworthiness.

OBSERVATION	ILLUSTRATIVE FINDING	FOLLOW-UP BEFORE BUYING
Tires	Sample notes flag uneven wear. Tread depth and tire age have not been measured.	Ask the mechanic to assess tires and related causes; get a written estimate for any recommended work.
Service history	Maintenance records are incomplete. Service needs have not been confirmed.	Request receipts and compare documented maintenance with the manufacturer's schedule.
Mechanical condition	No independent inspection, verified scan or road test is included in this example.	Arrange a qualified mechanic's inspection and ask which tests are still needed.
Identity & history	VIN, title, ownership and history have not been verified.	Match the vehicle and documents; check title/history information and open recalls.



02 / PUT THE FINDINGS INTO CONTEXT

Plan the purchase budget

Illustrative Price Bubble + Budget Check. Every amount below is invented for this example; no live market valuation or repair quote was used.

ASKING PRICE	OFFER RANGE	SELECTED OFFER
\$10,000	\$8,000-\$9,000	\$8,500
Sample seller price	Illustrative discussion range	Midpoint example

WHAT THE PURCHASE COULD USE

Selected sample offer	\$8,500
Estimated taxes, title & registration	\$700
Repair reserve	\$1,500
Total planned allocation	\$10,700

\$12,000 budget

\$1,300

REMAINING

After the sample offer, fees and repair reserve.

The \$1,500 reserve is a planning allowance, not a repair estimate. The \$700 fee allowance is not a tax calculation. Financing, insurance, fuel and future running costs are excluded.

03 Use the evidence to shape your next step

- 01 Verify the car.** Confirm VIN, title and seller authority; arrange an independent inspection.
- 02 Price the findings.** Request written repair estimates, then revisit the reserve and offer range.
- 03 Review the full deal.** Confirm the total price and terms in writing; pause if key facts remain unresolved.

Decision support only. This sample does not establish fair market value, guarantee a seller's acceptance or certify vehicle condition or safety. Actual findings, estimates and terms may differ.

Buyer education: [FTC - Buying a Used Car From a Dealer](#)