



# YOUR

# WHEELS

**Buying a car is the ultimate statement of independence and freedom. Here's what's in store for you when you get yourself some wheels!**

## WHERE TO START

Buying a car is always pretty exciting—on the upside, it means freedom, convenience and fun, and on the downside, compulsory third party insurance, and maintenance costs. And don't forget fuel costs—petrol is expensive, and isn't getting cheaper.

Before you sign any contracts, always arrange an independent inspection and test drive. You can check if the car's registration is current and if the seller is licensed, if the car has been stolen or written off, or has any outstanding financial liabilities through the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (phone 1800 424 988).

Start doing the rounds of your local dealerships and check what's on sale. Your options of places to buy include licensed dealers, private sellers, auctions, wholesale outlets, brokers and online sites. A licensed dealer will generally be more expensive than buying privately, but you get a guarantee of title through a dealer, which means you can be sure the seller is the legal owner of the vehicle. Inspect the contract on offer and go through it away from the dealership so you understand it completely. Remember, there are thousands of cars for sale—if you're not getting what you want, walk away.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

It's tempting to go for the car that looks the sportiest or is a nice colour. But what you really want is one that won't keep costing you money—being reliable and safe is most important, and a high-performance vehicle always comes with high petrol costs.

Popular, common models are cheaper to repair and service. Talk to your parents and friends about their car's performance and experience of buying a car.

## WHAT YOU'LL BE PAYING FOR

Remember, the price of the car isn't the only cash you're going to have to fork out: there's also stamp duty, transfer fee (used cars), dealer delivery charge (new cars) plus service, repairs and fuel costs. And don't forget insurance, which is more expensive for under 25 drivers and will vary between car models (so it's always a good idea to get a few quotes). Always stick to your budget: it's not the car for you if you can't afford it. Most dealerships will offer to arrange finance, but it's usually cheaper to do it yourself.

If you don't get the right type of insurance, one accident can have you straight back on the bus. Get a few speculative quotes to see if you can insure your chosen car or can afford it. Compulsory Third Party, also known as the 'Green slip', is paid as part of your registration fees and covers you against any injury or medical claims if you are at fault in an accident. Comprehensive cover is more expensive, but covers you for accidental damage to other people and their property, as well as damage to your own car and things inside it. Third Party Property covers damage to other people and their property—but not damage to your own car. Third Party Fire and Theft adds fire damage and theft cover for your car to the benefits of a Third Party Property policy.