

Selecting a car or other vehicle to purchase often requires compromises between what we want and what we can afford. Or between various functional attributes, such as the fact that the sports car we desire only seats two people, but we need seating for 3 or 4 people for family or work reasons.

The worksheet below is designed to remind you of various features, and help you prioritize the most important ones for your current life situation. The features are grouped into 5 higher level sets- Safety, Economy, Individual Suitability, Family & Work Suitability and Enjoyment. You might try ordering the 5 sets to start with, and then pick the most important features.

Rank	Features	Comments
	Safety	
	Crash Tests	This is the primary safety measurement
	Rearview Camera	Rearview cameras are a great option
	Accident Avoidance Options	New systems to warn of blind spot traffic, lane drifting and other issues
	Headlights	Good lights are particularly valuable in areas with less lighting
	Nightvision	Increases your awareness of people and animals in the roadway
	All Wheel Drive or 4WD	Important safety feature in areas with snow and ice
	All-around Visibility	Important to check as many models obscure the back view
	Economy	
	Total Cost	Setting your budget determines which vehicles you can choose
	Monthly Payment	The monthly payment is how many people determine how much car they can afford
	Fuel Economy	Important criteria for those with long commutes
	Reliability	A real key to customer satisfaction
	Warranty	Some manufacturers offer long warranties, which can save you money
	Cost of Repairs	Noticeably higher for European cars
	Residual Value	Lets you know what you can probably sell it for down the road
	Individual Suitability	
	Good for Short Person	Some cars offer extendable pedals
	Good for Tall Person	Not always easy to find
	Comfortable Driver's Seat	Compare to the great seats in Volvo cars
	Quiet	Test on the highway
	Easy to get in and out	Many people prefer SUVs for their higher seating position
	Fits in Garage	Some SUVs or trucks are too high for garages; the original Hummer was noted for being too wide for some garages

	Family & Work Suitability	
	Meets Work/Hobby Requirements	For example, Real Estate agents need to ferry around clients, tradespeople need room for tools and supplies. Do you need to regularly move large or tall items that require a pickup truck?
	Seating Capacity	Whether for carpooling, or family vacations, how many people do you need to carry?
	Good for road trips	Is the vehicle comfortable for passengers and the driver on long drives?
	Enjoyment	
	External Color	Very important for many people
	External Style	You'll know it when you see it
	Internal Style	Improves your enjoyment
	Sporty Handling	If it is not a sports car, at least it should handle well!
	You like this type of Vehicle	Some people dislike vans or station wagons, etc. Make sure that you can live with the type of vehicle that you are buying
	Specific options such as moon-roof, better stereo, seat-heaters, mag wheels.	Yes, these options make you feel better, if you can afford them

