The Keys to Buying the Best Car at the Best Price

Shopping for a new car or truck can be both exciting and exhausting. Driving home in the right vehicle at the right price involves several important financial and practical decisions. Here are five tips to help you make a smart purchase and avoid buyer’s remorse:

1. **Consider What You Can Afford, What You Need and What You Want**
   Get your car buying experience off to a great start by reviewing your income versus expenses to determine what you have available each month for an auto payment. Then, think about your transportation requirements. What do you need in a vehicle? Finally, think about what you want. By considering these three factors, you’ll improve your chances of driving away happy.

2. **Save for a Down Payment**
   It’s pretty simple—the more you borrow, the more the car will ultimately cost. To decrease the amount you finance, it’s wise to make a significant down payment. Doing so can help you save a lot of money down the road.

There’s a Vehicle Out There with Your Name on It!

When it comes to purchasing a new set of wheels, it’s important to be in the driver’s seat. Turn to page 3 for more great car-buying tips!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- **Alex Garcia**
  Freshman, Edinboro University
  Criminal Justice

- **Alycia Hernandez**
  Freshman, UCLA
  Biology

- **Cameron Kemper**
  Freshman, Cal Poly SLO
  Agriculture Business

- **Taylor Okashima**
  Junior, Dominican University of CA
  Nursing

- **Katelyn Wilson**
  Junior, CSU, Stanislaus
  Liberal Studies
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- Instant quote
- Pre-approval
- Mobile mortgage and refinance tool
- Exclusive STaR law enforcement rate re-lock program

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Visit cahpcu.org or call 800.542.2247 to apply.

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Erik Estrada

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Serving Those Who Serve Us
Find the Right Financing Institution and Financing Options

Because financing increases the total cost of the car, the loan you get is very important. And in most cases, you’ll get a better loan from your financial institution when compared to the options available at an auto dealership.

For example, the CAHP Credit Union has an exceptional rate right now! It’s what we call the “Beat Rate” offer. We’ll beat any dealer rate or auto loan refinance rate by 1 percent APR (a discounted rate cannot be less than 2.99% APR). And there are no payments for 90 days! Be sure to visit cahpcu.org or call (800) 542-2247 for more information.

Regarding an auto loan, it’s important to be sure you understand the following key pieces of information:

- The exact price you’re paying for the vehicle
- The amount you’re financing
- Your finance charge
- Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
- The number and amount of your payments
- The total sales price

Be Prepared

It’s never a good idea to walk into a dealership or a private-party sale without doing your homework. The internet is a great resource to become familiar with models, features and pricing. Car-buying magazines and books are also helpful. Be sure to compare offers in advertisements and at dealer showrooms. And, as previously mentioned, consider what you can afford, what you need and what you want.

Negotiate for the Best Deal

Negotiating with a salesperson and “driving a hard bargain” can often save you 10 to 20 percent off the advertised price. But remember—a deal isn’t a deal if you end up with a car you don’t really want or features you don’t really need. In fact, ordering a car could save you more money than negotiating for one on the lot, as you won’t pay for unnecessary options.

The bottom line?

Purchasing a vehicle doesn’t have to be difficult. With certain strategies in place—including help from CAHP Credit Union—getting the right car at the right price can be an enjoyable experience! If you would like to learn more about our auto financing options, please contact us at 800.542.2247.

(Continued from page 1)