



Put the brakes on phony online car sales

You can buy practically anything online, including used cars. But before you shell out any hard-earned cash, here's a warning about scammers trying to sell cars they don't have or own. How can you tell if an online car sale is fake?

- *You find bad reviews online.*
- *Sellers try to rush the sale.*
- *They can't or won't meet in person or let you inspect the car.*
- *They want you to pay with gift cards or by wire transfer.*
- *The sellers demand more money after the sale.*
- *The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) doesn't match.*

For more tips, check out [ftc.gov/usedcars](https://www.ftc.gov/usedcars) and [Online Auction Buyers](#).