

The Auction grade system

The Japan car auction grade system is very good, probably the best that is possible for used cars anywhere in the world. There are some slight differences between the Japanese auction house groups, and they do update the wording of criteria from time to time; however, the table below contains the main points and is also based on our experience at inspecting cars.

Auction Grade	Condition	Description
S	New	No damage, no repair, no modification
6	Almost New	No damage, no repair, no modification. less than 36 months old from the first registration date and travelled less than 30,000 km.
5	Immaculate	No replacement of any panels. The exterior may have some very minor scratches and marks (very hard to see any). The vehicle has travelled less than 50,000 km.
4.5	Very good	The exterior generally has more minor scratches and marks than grade 5 (still very few). May have a replacement of a panel that is fixed by screws (e.g. doors, fenders). The vehicle has travelled less than 100,000 km. In our experience, these are some of the best quality used cars, usually requiring no work.
4	Good	The exterior has some scratches or scrapes and possibly minor dents. The vehicle has travelled less than 150,000 km. May have had panel replacement, but none replaced that require welding (e.g. rear quarters, door sills). In our experience, this grade is a good quality used car but sometimes needs minor bodywork or paint (bumpers, plastic parts) to be perfect.
3.5	Average	The exterior usually has some more noticeable scratches, scrapes or dents. May have had panel replacement that required re-welding (e.g. rear quarters, door sills). In our experience, this grade usually has some scratches or dents (bumpers, plastic parts, wheel arches)
3	Low condition	May have a panel replacement or modification that required welding of the structure (e.g. rear quarters, door sills). The exterior may have more noticeable large scratches, scrapes, paint blemishes or larger dents. It may also be a modified car (race car) or a repaired car.
2	Very Low	Very poor condition. It may have large corrosion holes or significant structural issues.
1	Major issue history	Flood or Fire Damaged Cars
R	Repaired	Has had some repair to the structural parts in the table below. In our experience, the repair quality varies and we would suggest having an inspection. Sometimes they can be good, and sometimes they are no so good.
RA	Minor repair	Cars that have had minor repairs to structural components, or, they are well repaired. In our experience, these cars can look as good as a grade 4 or above.
***	Recycle Cars	Cars that have been entered into the "recycled auction section". Usually damaged cars, but sometimes they are running with engine or transmission issues. Non-running cars are moved by forklifts and require special transport procedures which are more costly. These cars are not graded by the auction house.