

Automobile Condition Classifications

1. **Excellent:** Restored to current maximum professional standards of quality in every area, or perfect original with components operating and appearing as new. A 95-plus-point show car is not driven. In a national show judging, a car in number one condition is likely to win top honors in its class. In a sense it has ceased to be an automobile and has become an object of art. It is transported to shows in an enclosed trailer and, when not being shown, it is stored in a climate-controlled facility. It is not driven. There are very few number one cars.
2. **Fine:** Well-restored, or a combination of superior restoration and excellent original. Also, extremely well maintained original showing very minimal wear. Except for the very closest inspection, a number two car may appear as a number one car. The number two vehicle will take the top award in many judged shows, except when squared off against a number one example in its own class. It may also be driven 800 – 1,000 miles each year to show, tour, or simply for pleasure.
3. **Very Good:** Completely operable original or “older restoration” showing wear. This also includes a good amateur restoration, all presentable and serviceable inside and out. Plus, combinations of well-done restoration and good operable components or partially restored car with all parts necessary to complete and/or valuable New Old Stock parts. This is a “20-footer”. That is, from 20 feet (about 6 meters) away it may look perfect. But as you approach it, you begin to notice that the paint may be becoming a little thin in spots from frequent washing and polishing. Looking inside you may detect some wear on the driver’s seat, foot pedals, and carpeting. The chrome trim, while still quite presentable, has lost the sharp mirror-like reflective quality it had when new. All systems and equipment on the car are in good operating condition. Most of the vehicles seen at many car shows are number three.
4. **Good:** A drivable vehicle needing no or only minor work to be functional. This also includes a deteriorated restoration or a very poor amateur restoration. All components may need restoration to be “excellent”, but the car is mostly useable “as is”. This is a driver. It may be in the process of restoration, or it’s owner may have big plans, but even from 20 feet away, there is no doubt that it needs a lot of help.
5. **Restorable:** Needs complete restoration of body, chassis, and interior. May or may not be running, but it is not weathered, wrecked, or stripped to the point of being useful only for parts. Such a car needs everything. It may or may not be operable, but it is essentially all there and has only minor surface rust, if any. Although it may present a real challenge to the restorer, it will not have him doing a lot of chasing for missing parts.
6. **Parts Car:** May or may not be running, but is weathered, wrecked, and/or stripped to the point of being useful primarily for parts. It is an incomplete or greatly deteriorated, perhaps rusty, vehicle that has value only as a parts donor for other restoration projects.