Buying & Selling on Craigslist
Memorial Hall Library
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Craigslist Basics

- Craigslist is an online classifieds site started in 1996.
- Transactions are carried out locally, in-person.
- In addition to searching for items for sale, you can browse apartments for rent, personals, job postings, and more.

Finding your Local Craigslist Site

Craigslist has dedicated sites for different major cities, metro areas, and smaller states.

2. Scroll down to find your state.
3. Click the city or geographic area that you want to browse.

Browsing and Searching

1. If you want to browse, click a category to see all the items of that type that are for sale.
2. If you know what you are looking for, type it into the search box.
Search Results
After searching, you can customize your results in a number of ways:

1. View results only from a specific city or area by clicking one of the tabs.
2. Set minimum or maximum price limits.
3. Show only items with pictures.
4. Browse items as a list, as pictures, or by location.

Key Points in an Ad
1. Note the item’s asking price and location.
2. Look for items with real photos of the item for sale.
   Avoid ads that use stock photos.
3. Note the item’s description. Sellers will often list the item’s condition and other details here, including if the asking price is “obo” (or best offer).
4. Note the date and time when the ad was posted. If it is several days old, the item might already be sold.

Contacting the Seller
- If you are interested in buying the item or want to ask the seller a question, click CONTACT.
- Select the method you’d like to use to contact the seller.
- Some sellers will only list an email, while others will list a phone or text number.
Selling on Craigslist

1. Click POST TO CLASSIFIEDS.
2. Follow the prompts to choose your item’s category and your location.
3. Fill out the form with your item’s details.
4. Add photos.
5. Submit your posting.

Publishing your Ad

- Wait for the verification email from Craigslist, then click the link inside the email.
- Craigslist requires phone verification (you must enter a code from text or voice to post an ad).
- Keep the verification email to edit, delete, or repost your ad.
- Register for a Craigslist account if you plan to post multiple ads.

Safety Tips

- Avoid scams by always dealing with folks you can meet in person.
- Meet in a public place.
- Take your cell phone if you have one.
- Tell a friend or family member where you’re going.
Other Sections of Craigslist

- Community: browse or post events, look for activity partners, and see what’s going on in your area.
- Housing: browse for apartment rentals, roommates, sublets, and more.
- Jobs: search for job postings in your area. Note: Craigslist charges $25 to post a job posting in most areas (including Boston).
- Personals: find a date or post a missed connection.

Craigslist Search Tools

- Use http://www.onecraigs.com or http://www.searchtempest.com to search multiple Craigslist sites at once (state or nation-wide).
- These search sites are not affiliated with Craigslist.

Links

- Craigslist safety: http://www.craigslist.org/about/safety
- Avoiding scams on Craigslist: http://www.craigslist.org/about/scams