

Buying & Selling on Craigslist

Memorial Hall Library
mhl.org



Craigslist Basics

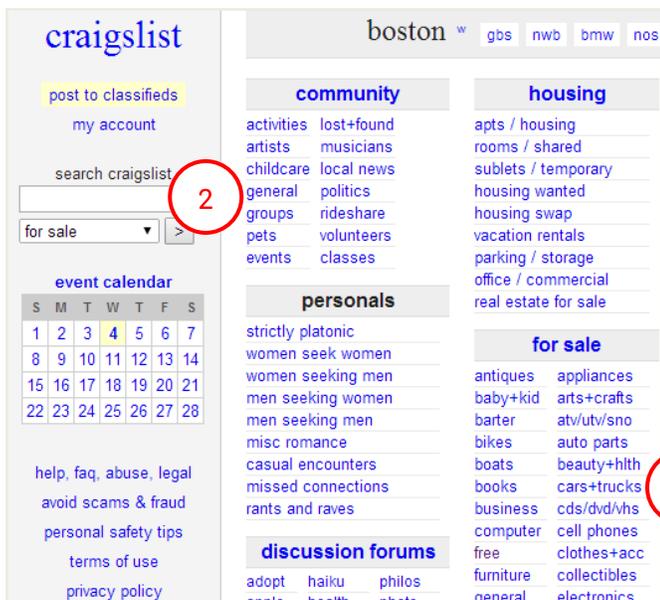
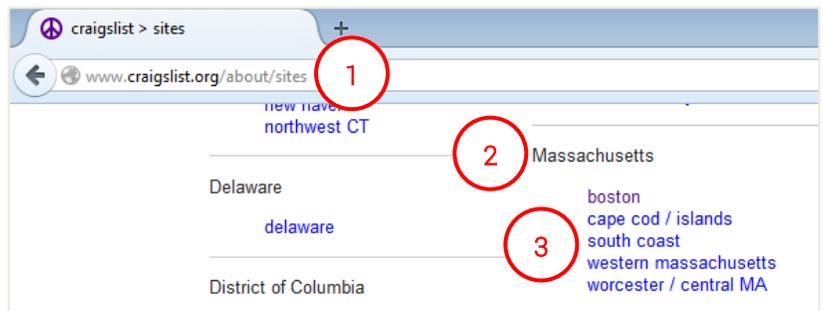
- Craigslist is an online classifieds site started in 1996.
- Transactions are carried out locally, in-person.
- In addition to searching for items for sale, you can browse apartments for rent, personals, job postings, and more.

craigslist

Finding your Local Craigslist Site

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

1. Navigate to <http://www.craigslist.org>.
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

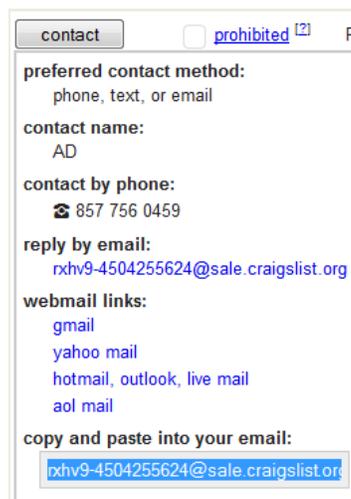
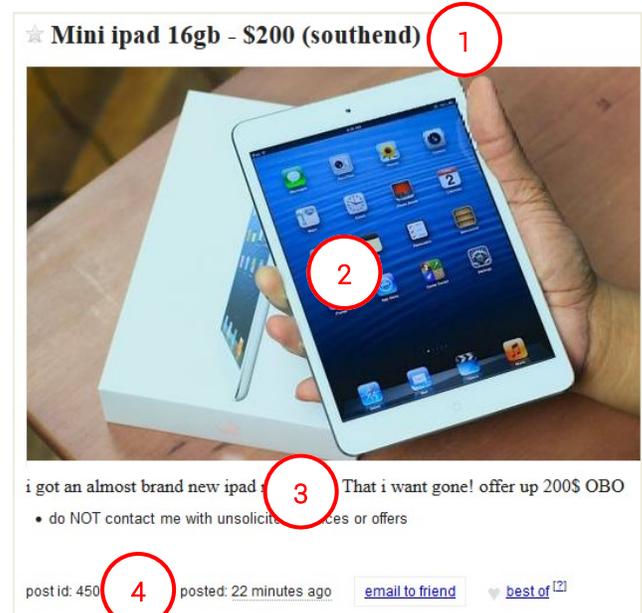
After searching, you can customize your results in a number of ways:

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.

A screenshot of the Craigslist posting form. The form is divided into several sections. The 'contact info' section includes an 'email' field with two input boxes for 'Your email address' and 'Type email address again', and two radio button options: 'CL mail relay (recommended)' and 'no replies to this email'. Below this is a section for 'users can also contact me:' with checkboxes for 'by phone' and 'by text', and input boxes for 'phone number' and 'contact name'. The 'posting title' field is highlighted with a red circle and the number '3'. To the right of the title field are input boxes for 'price', 'specific location', and 'postal code'. Below these is a large 'posting body' text area with a note: 'please enter phone numbers as contact info above, not in posting'.

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

community		housing	jobs
activities	lost+found	apts / housing	accounting+finance
artists	musicians	rooms / shared	admin / office
childcare	local news	sublets / temporary	arch / engineering
general	politics	housing wanted	art / media / design
groups	rideshare	housing swap	biotech / science
pets	volunteers	vacation rentals	business / mgmt
events	classes	parking / storage	customer service

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.

Onecraigs

IKEA COUCH - Craigslist
 May 31, 2014 ... Free **couch**. Main section folds out. Needs a cleaning.
orangecounty.craigslist.org/zip/4498309317.html

CURB ALERT : ikea couch - Roanoke - Craigslist
 May 4, 2014 ... We threw out the kids playroom **couch** today. Its the **ikea** ektorp **sofa**.
 Yes the cushions have spots on them, but they are washable slipcovers ...
roanoke.craigslist.org/zip/4453414654.html

FREE IKEA Couch
 5 days ago ... Free **couch**. Bought new from **IKEA** in 2010. One of the boards is
 broken so it sags in the middle but it can be propped up with a book or a 2x4.
portland.craigslist.org/mlt/zip/4509339814.html

Links

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