

How bidding works

Bidding on an eBay auction is a great way to get the item you want – at a bargain price.

When bidding on an auction, enter the maximum bid you feel comfortable with and we'll place bids for you, up to that limit.

In an auction-style listing, sellers name a starting price and you bid against other buyers.

You can keep track of your bidding from the

[Bids/Offers](https://www.ebay.com/myb/BidsOffers) - opens in new window

or tab section of My eBay. When the listing ends, the highest bidder wins the auction and

pays for the item. You may be asked to provide a payment method and shipping address when

making a bid. In this case, if you win the auction, payment will be taken immediately. This is to

ensure smoother transactions for buyers and sellers. Tip Remember, a bid is a binding

contract. When you bid on an item in an auction, you're committing to buy it if you win. Our

articles below will help answer any questions you have about auctions and tell you everything you

need to know about how to bid on items.

[Automatic](https://www.ebay.com/help/buying/bidding/automatic-bidding?id=4014)

[bidding](#) Stay ahead of the competition by setting up automatic bidding.

[Retracting](https://www.ebay.com/help/buying/bidding/retracting-bid?id=4013)

[a bid](#) Find out how and when you can retract a bid if you make a mistake while bidding.

[How](https://www.ebay.com/help/buying/bidding/reserve-prices-work?id=4018)

[reserve prices work](#) Discover how reserve prices on auctions work.

[Responding to](https://www.ebay.com/help/buying/bidding/second-chance-offers?id=4017)

[Second Chance Offers](#) If you aren't the winning bidder on an auction the seller may

still send you a Second Chance Offer. Find out how these offers work, and how to respond.

<https://www.ebay.com/help/buying/bidding/tips-winning-auctions?id=4015>> Tips for winning auctions Improve your chances of being the top bidder with our tips for winning auctions.</h2> Frequently Asked Questions</h2> Where can I find my bidding history? To see your bidding history, go to My eBay and select Bids/Offers - opens in new window or tab. There you'll find any items you're currently bidding on, items you bid on but didn't win, and any Best Offers you've made. If you want to delete your bidding history, check the box next to items you'd like to remove and select Delete. What is private bidding? Sellers sometimes create private listings that keep bidders and the buyer anonymous, particularly when selling highly priced items or pharmaceutical products. There will be a note on these listings stating that they're private, and that only the seller can see your username. Why did the item I was bidding on disappear? The seller may have ended the listing early – although this is something we strongly discourage. Or, if the seller breached one of our policies, we may have had to cancel the listing. Why am I getting a message to contact the seller when trying to place a bid? Sellers sometimes set requirements for potential buyers based on their payment or shipping preferences. For example, some sellers may not ship to the country or area where you live. If that happens, you'll see a message asking you to contact the seller when you try to place a bid. Let them know you'd like to bid, and they may change their requirements to allow you to take part. Why can't I bid in my friend's auction? It's important to us that auctions are always fair and honest. Sometimes a member who knows the seller – perhaps a family member or friend – bids on an item to drive up the price. This is known as shill bidding and isn't allowed on eBay. </h2></h2> eBay auctions, eBay bidding, bid disappeared, bid history, bid history details</h2>