

Ebay and PayPal for Buyers

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ABSTRACT

EBAY says that it's the "World's Online Marketplace". It works like this. A seller (like you or me) lists an item on eBay, most anything from antiques to cars, books to sporting goods. The buyer chooses to bid for the item (auction type) or sometimes to directly purchase the item right away at a fixed price. The first buyer willing to pay the seller's price gets the item.

PAYPAL is a division that acts independently. When you send a payment using PayPal, the recipient doesn't see your credit card or bank account information. Your money remains private and known only to PayPal. Purchase Protection is an extra feature that covers eligible transactions for up to the full purchase price plus original shipping charges.



INTRODUCTION

Using your Internet browser (IE, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc.) or a special phone or tablet app, go to www.ebay.com. Now you can browse around and search for hundreds of items.

GETTING STARTED

Sign up for an eBay account. This will provide you with a special name (like Mary345) and a password. This is quite serious. Don't let the password wander to anyone else. Here's why: an account and password allows you to bid on any item from a necklace to a yacht. If you "win", it the same as signing a legal contract to purchase the item. We'll discussing "paying" for the item later. Now, relax and go browsing again.

AN EXAMPLE

Try searching for a "coffee maker".

Here's one:

It's selling for 35 dollars. You may click on the picture and go to a page with more details. In this case, it's a "buy it now" item. You can also note any shipping charges and other information. If you want it, you may click the "BUY IT NOW" button.



OTHER POSSIBILITIES

Many items on eBay are “auction” items that work in a manner like auctions that have been around for hundreds of years. You must “BID” on an item. That is, you must declare how much you are willing to spend. Other people may be watching the same item and can “OUTBID” you. Then you can outbid them, etc.

eBay adds a new flavor to the auction process: rather than waiting for someone else to outbid you, it possible to let eBay do the bidding for you. Let’s say someone has bid 50 dollars for an item. The item looks good and you would be willing to spend 75 dollars on it. But you still want to get the best deal. Just tell eBay that you will spend a maximum of 75 dollars. eBay checks the current price. It’s 50. So, eBay bids 51 dollars on your behalf. If the bidding from other people goes to 55, eBay will automatically raise your bid to 56.

Your bid will always be the highest but still it’s the best deal possible. The price continues to rise until the bidding stops or until you reach your maximum. (75)

One last detail: There’s a time limit. At a special “Time Left” time, all bids will stop and whoever is at the top will win. Note: there is no “cancel” option. It’s just like a real auction. If you raise your hand and win, you must pay for the item.



HOW TO PAY

There are a number of ways but I recommend using PayPal because it’s the safest. You will need to go to www.paypal.com and create an account with a password. Again, don’t let this password wander. Part of the signup procedure will involve your CREDIT CARD, or bank account. Yes, you have to trust PayPal. Read through some of the “Legalize” if you are not sure.

Once you have a PayPal account, you can use it to buy that coffee maker, etc. There’s a button on the eBay transaction that says “PayPal”. The person or company that you buy from never actually sees your credit card.

AFTER YOU BUY

Both eBay and PayPal are very good at keeping you informed. You will receive emails at every step of the transaction including shipping.

WHAT IF ...

Ebay and PayPal have a number of safeguards if something goes wrong such as receiving an old radio instead of a coffee maker. Check their “**Customer Support**” and “**Resolution Center**” sections. If there’s an impasse with the supplier, eBay provides a free “**eBay Money Back Guarantee**” to all buyers. Additionally, PayPal provides “**Purchase Protection**”. Check their “**Protection for Buyers**” section.

[ANTIQUES, ART, BABY, BOOKS, BUSINESS & INDUSTRIAL, CAMERAS & PHOTO, CELL PHONES & ACCESSORIES, CLOTHING, SHOES & ACCESSORIES, COINS & PAPER MONEY, COLLECTIBLES, COMPUTERS/TABLETS & NETWORKING, CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, CRAFTS, DOLLS & BEARS, DVDs & MOVIES, ENTERTAINMENT MEMORABILIA, EVERYTHING ELSE, GIFT CARDS & COUPONS, HEALTH & BEAUTY, HOME & GARDEN, JEWELRY & WATCHES, MUSIC, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & GEAR, PET SUPPLIES, POTTERY & GLASS, REAL ESTATE, SPECIALTY SERVICES, SPORTING GOODS, SPORTS MEM, CARDS & FAN SHOP, STAMPS, TICKETS & EXPERIENCES, TOYS & HOBBIES, TRAVEL, VIDEO GAMES & CONSOLES](#)