

## Have You e-bay(ed) Today?

I would be willing to bet that you have at least heard of e-bay. E-bay began in San Jose, California in 1995 as a way to sell collectables. Through the years there have been many new auction sites with the same kind of features as e-bay. In the end e-bay has come out on top as the number one Internet auction site.

Many people are afraid to use e-bay because they do not understand how it works. Other people are afraid to use e-bay because they do not understand the safe guards that are imposed to protect both the seller and the buyer. I want you to understand e-bay better through this article so that you will feel confident enough to use this amazing service.

First off, if you have never used e-bay simply type [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) into your web browser and check out the website. At the top of the main page is a search box. Type a couple of keywords into this box for anything that you're looking for. The search engine will return a page with a listing of every auction that includes those words in the title bar. This is the easiest and fastest way to find an auction you are looking for. If however you have more time on your hands and want to leisurely browse the auctions then you should check out the left side of the home page. There are dozens of heading and then dozens of sub heading under the main heading to make your browsing easier.

If you found something that you would like to bid on then now is a great time to sign up for an account. Simply press the "Place Bid" button on the auction page. From there you will get a screen that allows you to type the price you are willing to pay for the object. After pressing the "continue" button you will see a page that will allow you to register if you are a new user. Once you have an account then you will be returned to the auction that you were bidding on. Be sure to read and understand the terms of the auction. Some information you should seek out includes the shipping information and payment information. Be sure to understand your shipping options and look for a posted cost of what the seller will charge for shipping and handling.

Also, be sure to look for the payment options. Some sellers will only take money orders, others will only take Paypal, and some will take money orders, Paypal and credit cards. What? What's Paypal you ask? Paypal started out as an independent way of transferring money between people online by using their e-mail address as a kind of account number. Paypal is now owned by e-bay, which makes it even easier to use. Once an auction has ended you will receive an e-mail from e-bay asking if you would like to pay for the item you just "Won." If you already have a Paypal account simply click on the link, type your password, and then submit the funds. In a matter of minutes the seller will receive an e-mail indicating the money has been transferred to their account. It's as easy as that.

Before you actually submit the winning bid though be sure to check out the sellers credentials. E-bay has taken great pains to set up a system of checks and balances to keep the seller and the buyer safe. Take a look at the rating to the right of the seller's name. If you click on that rating a new screen will pop up giving you the statistics of happy and unhappy buyers and sellers. You can also see actual comments from previous e-bay buyers concerning their experience with this seller. On the flip side, the seller can also leave comments and a negative or positive rating on a person buying their product.

Another words, be sure to pay your auction bill on time otherwise you could end up with a negative rating which may make other sellers think twice about selling you their items.

There's no need for a yard sale, simply post your junk on e-bay. Someone is bound to think that it is treasure. I think e-bay is a great place to get rid of that unwanted junk in your garage. I don't think it's a great way to sell something of value though. I would seek out the expertise of a reputable auction company if you need to sell something of value. If you have any computer related questions simply give Thomas or Roger a call at 947-0749 or e-mail us at [computerdepotonline@att.net](mailto:computerdepotonline@att.net).