

1. Examine the merchandise before the sale.
2. If possible, know the value of items being sold before you go to the sale.
3. Find a chair close enough that you can see the items being sold.
4. Pay attention. The auctioneer should indicate damage to an item or how the item is being sold.
5. Don't let someone else's talking disturb your concentration – you could lose an item or bid too much.
6. If you want to talk to someone about another matter other than the auction, the best thing is to move out of the middle of the auction floor.
7. Many auctions do not provide seating. Take a lightweight, folding chair. Do not plan on sitting in the furniture that's being sold.
8. It's also a good idea to carry cold water. Some drinks are usually available, but it's not a guarantee. Also know if there will be food on hand. Auctions can last for hours. If you're on a special diet, don't expect to find the food you need there.
9. Some items are sold by the piece, then they are multiplied by all the pieces in a set. For example, one dining chair will be the bidded item but the other three will also go. So if you pay \$120 for one chair, you'll end up paying \$480 for all four chairs.
10. Most auctions require you to sign up ahead of time and they will in turn give you an auction number. Use that when you bid.
11. When you leave, take the number with you to the check-out line. The check-out line is not the same as the person who is writing down information by the auctioneer, but the one where you first got your number.
12. Even if you don't purchase anything, take your number out with you. Leaving a loose number could fall into someone else's hands – you don't want to pay for someone else's buying spree.
13. Another sale option is to buy one of several similar or alike items at one price then pick as many other items from the table for that same price.
14. Don't be afraid of the auctioneer thinking that you were bidding when you scratch your nose. Unless the auctioneer knows you and knows that's your signal. Most bidders raise their hands or their bid numbers.
15. Know how to pay for your items. Most auction houses will take checks, but if you're out of town you may need some verification or another option for payment.

16. If you make a mistake in bidding, don't wait – let the auctioneer know immediately.
17. You're usually responsible for your items after the item is auctioned. Be prepared with wrapping paper and boxes for breakable items. Have a truck or be prepared to have large items hauled.
18. Furniture bought by you is now your property. If you don't want others to sit in or on it, have rope to tie over it or move it out of the general auction area. Don't expect the auction helpers to help you with moving it at this time.