What are my essential requirements? Fuel efficiency or enough room for all the family?

Do I need the car to do anything specific? This could include towing a trailer or fitting into a small space.

Is it for short city drives or longer journeys? Does it need to be able to cruise at motorway speeds without straining?

Do I need a massive boot? Consider whether you need room for things such as sports equipment or a pushchair – or if you need to fit friendly Fido or your meddling mother-in-law.

Do I prefer petrol or diesel? The fuel you want to use can make a big difference in the model you might choose.

Do I want to consider an eco-friendly car? If so, a hybrid or electric car could be an option.