Before You Buy or Sell Gold: Checklist and 3-Shop Comparison

What to check and ask, and how to compare two or three shops on the same piece.

1 Before you buy

- ☐ The invoice shows weight, karat and making charge **each on its own line**
- ☐ The piece carries a hallmark (the karat stamp)
- ☐ The piece was weighed in front of me
- ☐ I know today's price per gram and it is written down
- ☐ I compared at least two shops
- ☐ The return / exchange policy is in writing

2 Before you sell

- ☐ I know today's buy price
- ☐ I compared 3 shops
- ☐ I have the invoice, and the piece is hallmarked
- ☐ I asked: is there a deduction on the piece?

With a private buyer or seller

- ☐ We meet in a public place
- ☐ No money sent before I see the piece
- ☐ Karat tested by a jeweler I trust

3 Ask before you pay

1. What is today's price per gram?
2. What is the making charge per gram, and does it include VAT?
3. What karat is it, and where is the hallmark?
4. Is there a discount if I buy more than one piece?
5. What is the return and exchange policy?

4 3 shops compared (worked example)

Shop	Price per g	Making per g	Discount	Total	Above cheapest	Invoice?
Example Shop A	6,200.00	100	0%	63,140.00	1,235.36	✓
Example Shop B	6,180.00	120	2%	**61,904.64**	0.00	✓
Example Shop C	6,150.00	150	0%	63,210.00	1,305.36	-

Total = weight × (price per gram + making charge × 1.14) × (1 – discount).

Example : a 10 g 21K piece. Cheapest overall: **Shop B** , with a 2% discount; the gap between cheapest and dearest is EGP 1,305.36. The cheapest is not always the best: check the invoice, the hallmark and the return policy.

5 Compare by hand: same piece, same weight

Shop	Price per g	Making per g	Discount	Total	Above cheapest	Invoice?

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