

## Popular AI Assistants: Jan 2026 Comparison

AI Assistant	Key Capabilities	Limitations	Jan 2026 Pricing
<b>ChatGPT</b>	GPT-5.2 models (Instant, Thinking, Pro); strong reasoning and coding; web search; Deep Research mode; Sora video generation (Plus/Pro); DALL-E 3 image creation; file uploads; Advanced Data Analysis; custom GPTs; Canvas for collaborative editing	Context loss in extended conversations; occasional hallucinations; complex multi-tier pricing; ads in free/Go tiers; API separate from subscription	Free; Go \$8/mo; Plus \$20/mo; Pro \$200/mo
<b>Claude</b>	200K+ token context window; Claude 4.5 Opus and Sonnet models; exceptional coding with Claude Code; Projects for organization; Extended Thinking mode; web search; document analysis; strong safety alignment; API access separate	No native image generation; smaller third-party ecosystem vs ChatGPT; usage caps reset every 5-8 hours; \$80 gap between Pro and Max tiers; fewer integrations	Free; Pro \$20/mo; Max \$100/mo (5x) or \$200/mo (20x)
<b>Gemini</b>	Native 1M token context; multimodal (text/image/audio/video); Google Workspace integration (Docs, Gmail, Sheets); Veo 3.1 video generation; Nano Banana Pro images; Deep Research; Google Search integration; NotebookLM; Jules coding agent	Occasional nuanced query misinterpretation; less reliable for deep critical research; inconsistent performance across modalities; Ultra tier most expensive at \$249.99	Free; AI Plus \$19.99/mo; AI Pro \$19.99/mo; AI Ultra \$249.99/mo
<b>Copilot</b>	Embedded in Microsoft 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams); enterprise security and compliance; coding support via GitHub; Work IQ intelligence layer; Copilot Studio for custom agents; deep Microsoft ecosystem integration	Requires Microsoft 365 subscription for full features; limited general-purpose capability outside Microsoft apps; Business tier requires annual commitment; best value only within Microsoft ecosystem	Free (basic); Pro \$20/mo; Business \$18-30/user/mo; Enterprise \$30/user/mo
<b>Perplexity</b>	Real-time web search with source citations; Deep Research mode with multi-step analysis; access to multiple AI models (GPT-5.2, Claude 4.5, Gemini); file uploads and analysis; Pro Search for comprehensive answers; Citation transparency	Limited creative writing capability; lacks deep conversational engagement; primarily research-focused; no native image/video generation; smaller model selection in free tier	Free; Pro \$20/mo; Max \$200/mo; Enterprise Pro \$40/seat/mo; Enterprise Max \$325/seat/mo
<b>Grok</b>	Real-time X/Twitter integration for trend analysis; fast responses with distinct personality; strong coding and math performance (89.7% MATH benchmark); unfiltered creative output; Think mode and Big Brain mode; DeepSearch feature	Higher hallucination rates vs competitors; weaker citation and sourcing; personality may not suit professional contexts; limited ecosystem; primarily accessible through X platform	Free (basic for X users); X Premium+ \$40/mo; SuperGrok \$30/mo; SuperGrok Heavy \$300/mo

### Key 2026 Updates:

- **ChatGPT:** Launched Go tier (\$8/mo) globally; introducing ads in free/Go tiers; enhanced GPT-5.2 models
- **Claude:** Introduced Max tiers at \$100/mo and \$200/mo for power users; enhanced Claude Code
- **Gemini:** Rebranded to AI Plus/Pro/Ultra; added Veo 3.1 video generation; Jules coding agent
- **Copilot:** Business tier promotional pricing \$18/mo (through Mar 2026); enhanced Work IQ features
- **Perplexity:** Added Max tier (\$200/mo); expanded Enterprise options up to \$325/seat/mo
- **Grok:** Launched SuperGrok Heavy tier (\$300/mo); enhanced Think mode and DeepSearch

**Note:** Researched using [Claude.ai](https://claude.ai) on January, 30 2026. Always check official sources and do your own research.

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