

ChatGPT VS THE REST

Which chatbot provides the most helpful answers to your search queries and best responses to your prompts?

Robert Irvine tests 10 AI assistants to find out



Although you probably have a favourite search engine and web browser, you may be undecided about which AI **chatbot** to use. Spearheaded by ChatGPT, there are now

loads of tools to choose from. While you can easily switch between chatbots, it's still useful to know which gives you the most reliable information, generates the highest-quality content and offers the

most features. ChatGPT may be the most popular, but that doesn't mean it's the best. In this feature, we help you decide which one to use, by pitting ChatGPT against nine other leading contenders.

HOW WE TESTED THE CHATBOTS

We tested the 10 free versions of AI chatbots through their websites, using their default language models and without enabling additional tools (unless necessary). To get a broad range of responses, we entered these 10 questions and prompts (with our reasons in brackets):

- What is the best smart TV you can buy for under £300? (recommendations)
- Do I need a visa to go on holiday to the EU this summer? (topical)
- What will the weather be like in Torquay this weekend? (predictive)
- Can I upgrade my unsupported Windows 10 PC to Windows 11? (technical)
- What is the best way to fix a leaking kitchen tap? (lifestyle)
- Write a letter of complaint to South Western Railway (text generation)
- Summarise the content of this Computeractive feature (text analysis)
- Compile a round of general-knowledge

quiz questions (creative)

- Identify the species of flower in this photo (image recognition)
- Create an image of a man drinking tea on a rollercoaster (image generation)

After completing our tests, we rated each chatbot out of five for Features (how many options you can use for free), Performance (speed and detail of response) and Quality (accuracy and helpfulness). We then gave each tool an Overall score.

GOLD AWARD

Gemini

https://gemini.google.com



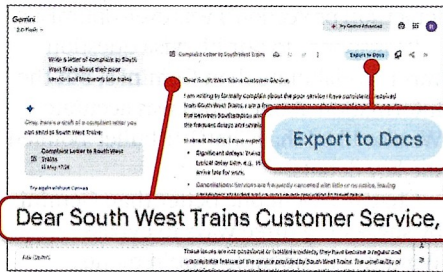
Originally called Bard, Google's AI chatbot received a lukewarm response when it launched in March 2023. Many users found it lacking compared with ChatGPT and it was accused of providing inaccurate information (www.snipca.com/54876). After Bard was rebranded as Gemini a year later, Google made numerous improvements to its performance and capabilities, and it's now the best AI assistant you can use for free.

As well as typing commands and questions into Gemini's message box, you can click its microphone icon to speak them. Its apps for Android (www.snipca.com/54877) and iOS (www.snipca.com/54878) include a clever Live feature that lets you talk aloud to the chatbot like you're chatting to a real person. You can upload images and documents, or add them from Google Drive, to ask Gemini to analyse their content, and use its Deep Research function to get in-depth answers to your queries.

ChatGPT previously had the extra advantage of custom GPTs, which expand its capabilities with extra tools, but now Gemini has them too in the form of Gems (www.snipca.com/54896). Although it has less 'personality' than ChatGPT, our tests found that Gemini is generally faster, better informed and more thorough in its responses.

Our first question to Gemini was: 'What is the best smart TV you can buy for under £300?' (see screenshot below). After pointing out that the 'best' smart TV would depend on our "specific needs and priorities", Gemini listed the top contenders (though without citing its sources). It summarised the benefits of each model, explained the key factors to consider when buying a new TV and ultimately recommended the Hisense 43A6KTUK.

More disappointing was its weather



Gemini let us customise and export its excellent letter of complaint

forecast, which simply showed a basic three-day graphic from Google Weather, without any comment or extra information.

When we asked Gemini whether we'd need a visa to visit the EU this summer, its response included both the current rules and the imminent changes. Citing several official sources, it outlined the new 'European Travel Information and Authorisation System' (ETIAS), when it's likely to be introduced and how much it will cost. It clarified that ETIAS is a 'visa waiver', not a visa, and that the EU is introducing a separate Entry/Exit system (EES) that uses biometric data.

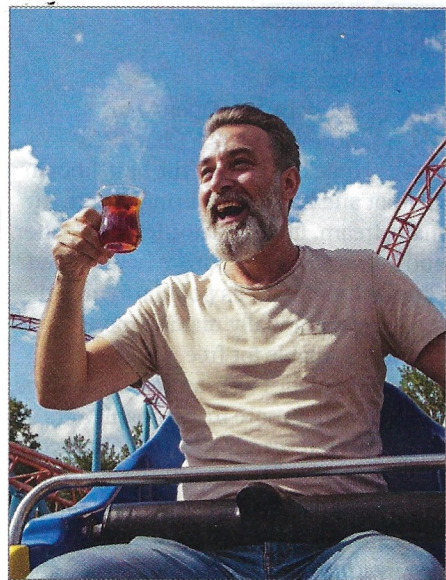
Gemini also gave an impressive reply to our question about upgrading an unsupported Windows 10 PC to Windows 11. It warned of the risks before providing detailed instructions for two methods: one involving registry edits and the other bypassing hardware requirements using Rufus (www.snipca.com/53499).

Our final search query for Gemini was: 'What is the best way to fix a leaking kitchen tap?'. Its comprehensive answer included step-by-step guidance for repairing three types of tap leak – spout, handle and base. Although we would have welcomed some pictures or links to sources, Gemini's advice was reliable and clearly explained.

We next asked Gemini to perform three text-based tasks, starting with writing a letter of complaint to South Western Railway. It quickly produced an excellent template in its Canvas editor. This included an accurate list of 'issues' (such as delayed, cancelled and overcrowded trains) and examples of bad journeys, which we could customise with specific dates and times. Gemini also let us export the letter to Google Docs (see screenshot above).

For the next task, we uploaded the 'dark web' feature from page 62 of this issue and asked Gemini to summarise its content. It quickly and accurately picked out all the key points, without repetition.

Lightening the mood, we got Gemini to compile a round of general-knowledge

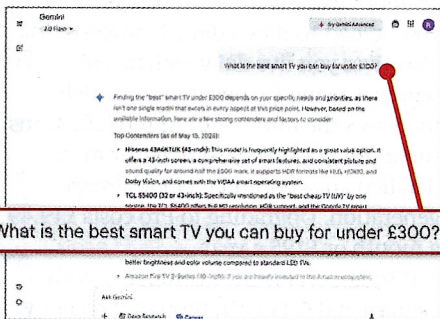


Gemini produced a realistic image – aside from the glass of tea

questions for a quiz. It came up with 20, spanning a wide variety of topics and difficulty, including 'Who invented the worldwide web?'.

Next, we uploaded a photo of a flower and asked Gemini to identify its species. The chatbot said it was a species of Dietes, most probably an African iris or fortnight lily (*dietes iridioides*). It couldn't be certain without a "clearer view of specific features", but its assertion was correct.

For the final round, we tested Gemini's image-generation abilities by asking it for a picture of a man drinking tea on a rollercoaster. Despite the tea being black and in a glass, the result (pictured above) was impressively detailed and realistic, from the man's beard to the curve of the tracks. Gemini lets you download high-resolution copies of images, without a watermark, and (as with text prompts) it doesn't specify a limit on how many you can create per day – it will tell you when you hit your personal quota.



Gemini replied to our smart TV query with a detailed and helpful answer

VERDICT Gemini gives you more for free than any other chatbot. Its Advanced plan, which costs £19 a month, offers integration with Google Docs, Drive and Gmail, more advanced language models and video generation, but for everyday tasks and queries the standard Gemini is all you need.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

SILVER AWARD

ChatGPT

www.chatgpt.com



Launched by OpenAI in November 2022, ChatGPT quickly became the best-known chatbot and has helped bring AI into the mainstream. Its simplicity, friendly patter and authoritative responses have helped ChatGPT maintain its popularity, aided by OpenAI gradually making more features available for free.

It now includes web-search capabilities, 'reasoning' for more in-depth answers and a 'Deep research' tool that produces reports on given topics by 'synthesising' large amounts of online information. You can also use its voice mode in your browser or the ChatGPT apps for Windows, Android and iOS (www.snipca.com/54924) for hands-free conversations.

Frustratingly, despite recent improvements to its image-generation tool (see Issue 708, page 74), ChatGPT still only lets you create and edit three pictures a day. The Plus version, which costs £20 a month, increases the limit to 200 per day, and also gives you access to the latest language models, expanded versions of ChatGPT tools and shorter waiting times – the free version can be slow during peak hours.

In our first test, ChatGPT went further than Gemini by providing photos of its smart TV recommendations, and links to buy them on stores including Amazon, Argos and Currys (see screenshot below). Though these looked sponsored, ChatGPT says it "chooses products independently". Unlike Gemini, it didn't offer general buying advice, but it helpfully cited the sources of the 'Why Choose It' summaries for each model.

ChatGPT's weather forecast for Torquay listed lots of useful information, including temperatures, humidity, precipitation and UV Index. However, its prediction that Sunday would hit a high of 22°C ("don't

forget sun protection") was over-optimistic.

Its response to our EU-visa question was less elaborate than Gemini's, but the information about ETIAS was accurate. We also liked that ChatGPT bullet-pointed the key details.

ChatGPT went one better than Gemini by suggesting three ways to bypass Windows 11-upgrade requirements, along with the requisite warning. Unfortunately, the third method was based on an outdated article, and no longer works.

Although ChatGPT didn't distinguish between different types of tap leak, it included a helpful 'How to fix a leaking tap' video from B&Q. We also liked its list of 'Tools and materials you may need', but its practical advice wasn't as clear as Gemini's.

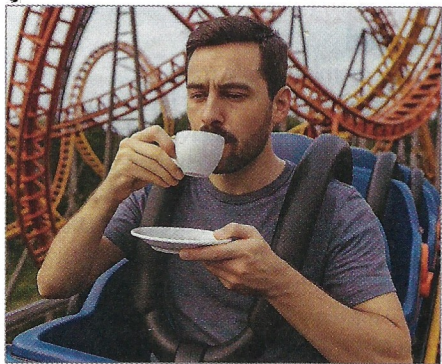
When we asked ChatGPT to generate a complaint letter to South Western Railway, it thoughtfully filled in the customer-service address for us – Gemini just said to look it up. However, the letter's content wasn't as focused as Gemini's, and could only be customised by entering a follow-up prompt.

ChatGPT's summary of our 'dark web' feature covered all the important information, and provided an accurate overview of the theme of the article: "vigilance and proactive steps to secure your personal information".

For our quiz prompt, ChatGPT suggested 15 questions, covering subjects including geography, history and current affairs. These were very easy, such as: 'Who is the current President of the United States?', which may be why it didn't bother including answers.

ChatGPT identified the flower in our photo as *diates grandiflora*, "commonly known as the African iris, wild iris or large wild iris". Though it got the genus right, the species was actually *diates iridioides*.

We had to wait several minutes for



ChatGPT's AI-generated man looked too waxy to be lifelike

ChatGPT to create our picture because "lots of people are creating images right now". The resulting image (above) got the cup of tea right, but it overdid the rollercoaster tracks in the background and made the man's skin look too waxy to be lifelike.

VERDICT ChatGPT is undoubtedly a fantastic AI tool, with lots of useful features. However, the limits of its free version and occasionally inaccurate and unfocused answers give Gemini the edge.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

BRONZE AWARD

Perplexity

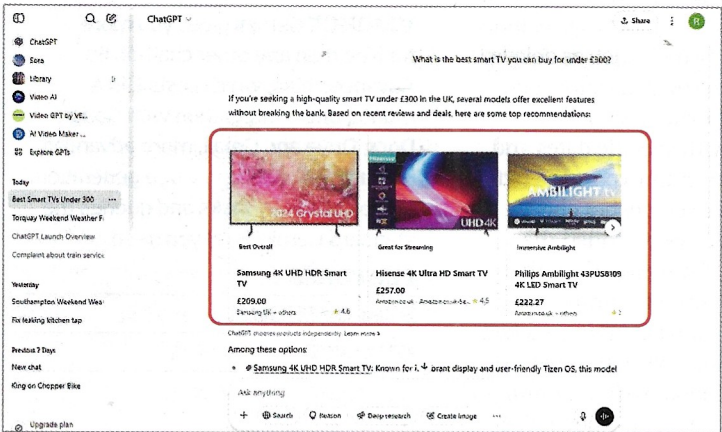
www.perplexity.ai



Unlike ChatGPT (and Gemini), Perplexity is primarily an AI-powered search engine with an integrated chatbot, rather than vice versa. This means you get handy search features such as auto-complete suggestions as you type your queries, and 'related' follow-up questions for more precise answers. It's also amazingly fast, outpacing nearly all the other tools we tested.

Perplexity's free plan offers unlimited searches using a single AI model and lets you upload 10 files a day for analysis. It also gives you five daily 'enhanced' searches using Perplexity Pro, which increases the number of AI models, scans three times as many sources for more detailed answers and includes image generation. Upgrading to Pro costs £19.49 a month or £195 a year.

It's light on features compared with Gemini and ChatGPT, though it recently introduced Perplexity Assistant in its Android (www.snipca.com/54897) and



ChatGPT often provides links to buy recommended products from online stores

iOS apps (www.snipca.com/54898). This lets you perform searches and other tasks using your voice.

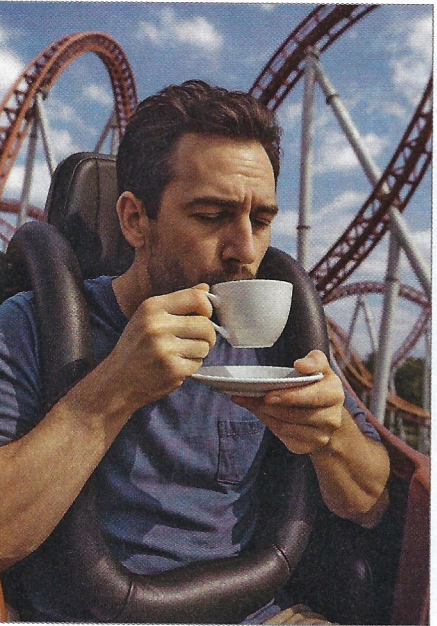
Like Gemini, Perplexity recommended the Hisense 43A6KTUK as the best smart TV for under £300, but its presentation was superior. It included images, links to its sources, clear summaries of the specifications and benefits of each model, and a comparison table.

Perplexity responded to our Torquay-weather query with an accurate five-day forecast graphic, using data from AccuWeather. It noted that the “sunny and delightful” conditions would be great for outdoor activities.

When we asked about travelling to the EU, Perplexity summarised the facts about ETIAS and EES, and provided links to the relevant sources. It also suggested relevant follow-up questions such as ‘Can UK citizens visit Ireland without an ETIAS?’.

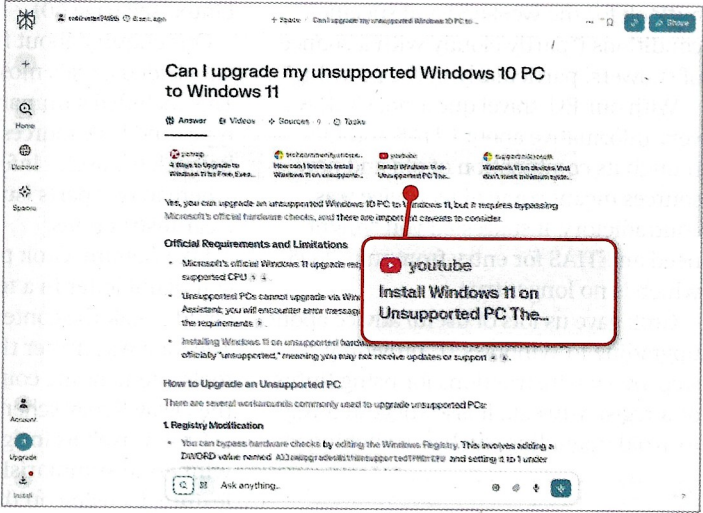
Perplexity gave an excellent answer to our question about upgrading to Windows 11. It was the only chatbot to mention the new tool Flyby11 (www.snipca.com/54882), included links to relevant videos (see screenshot above right) and even provided a summary table of the various methods and their respective risks.

While we were slightly disappointed by Perplexity’s initial answer to our leaking-tap question, which provided only ‘general steps’, further advice was available from its related questions, such as ‘How do I know if I need to replace the washer or the O-ring?’ Best of all, it linked to YouTube videos that demonstrated



Perplexity’s AI image was high quality, albeit slightly dark

Perplexity provided impressively detailed responses to our query about upgrading to Windows 11



how to stop a tap dripping.

Perplexity produced a polite but ‘dissatisfied’ complaint letter to South Western Railway, which mentioned train delays and cancellations, even specifying 15 to 30-minute waiting times. But it was less clear about the action it wanted the company to take.

As well as concisely summarising our dark-web feature, Perplexity provided links to relevant news stories about data breaches. It was less interested in our quiz prompt, only suggesting 10 simple questions, such as ‘Which planet is known as the Red Planet?’.

Perplexity confidently identified our flower as Dietes, “commonly known as the African iris or fortnight lily”. It didn’t mention the precise species, but provided links to a relevant website and Reddit discussion.

As image-generation is only available with ‘enhanced’ Perplexity Pro searches, and we’d used up our free daily quota, we had to wait until the next day to create our tea-drinking man on a rollercoaster. The result (left) was pretty good, if a little dark, but not as realistic as Gemini’s effort. Usefully, Perplexity suggested similar images from stock-photo sites – though without the beverage.

VERDICT While Perplexity’s daily limits are frustrating, its free search results still provide accurate and detailed information almost instantly. It’s as close a rival to Google search as it is to Gemini and ChatGPT.

FEATURES ★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

BEST OF THE REST

Grok
www.grok.com

Grok was originally limited to users with an X (formerly Twitter) account, but that restriction was lifted at the start of the year. It uses its own Grok 3 language model to process your prompts and has more personality than most chatbots, responding to queries in a casual tone.

Like ChatGPT, Grok includes options – called DeepSearch and Think – for generating more in-depth answers by using more sources and ‘reasoning’, though you can only try these twice every 24 hours for free. It lets you create 10 images every two hours, and offers terrific editing tools for customising pictures, such as by changing the background, removing unwanted people and applying effects.

On the downside, Grok is noticeably slower to respond than other chatbots, and its paid-for plan – which increases usage limits and offers “extended access” to DeepSearch and Think – costs a steep £30 a month or £300 a year. However, Grok’s voice mode (which previously required a subscription) is now available for free in its Android (www.snipca.com/54899) and iOS (www.snipca.com/54900) apps.

After warning us that budget TVs can be of poor quality, Grok provided an impressive amount of information about each recommendation – as with Gemini and Perplexity, its top pick was the Hisense 43A6KTUK. We liked that it explained the pros and cons of each model, and mentioned the latest deals – though the prices weren’t always accurate.

Grok also included lots of detail for its Torquay weather forecast, both as an

outlook for the weekend and specific conditions (“partly cloudy with a chance of showers, particularly in the morning”).

With our EU-travel question, Grok was very informative about ETIAS and EES, though its combination of old and new sources meant some of its advice was contradictory. It suggested you “might need an ETIAS for entry from mid-2025”, which is no longer true.

Grok gave us lots of useful advice about upgrading to Windows 11, providing step-by-step instructions for using Rufus or a registry tweak. It also suggested ways to avoid upgrading, such as switching to

Linux (see page 60).

Our enquiry about fixing a leaking tap yielded Grok’s most detailed response. This included summaries of common tap types and leak sources (see screenshot below left), useful information about where to buy parts (such as washers) and clear instructions.

Like Gemini, Grok presented its complaint letter in a text editor, so we could tweak the content as required. The tone was firmer than the other AI tools’, demanding compensation through the Delay Repay scheme.

Grok wasn’t as insightful as our award winners at summarising our dark-web feature, focusing on the names of tools, rather than reasons for using them. Like Perplexity, it suggested only 10 questions for our general-knowledge quiz. In fact, some were the same, suggesting it used the same source.

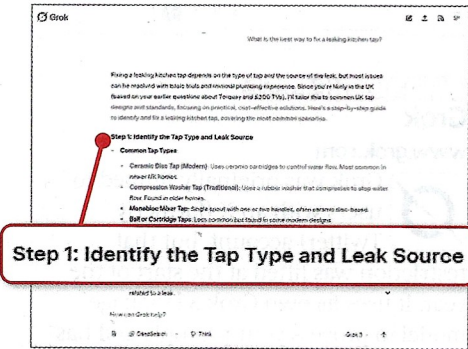
Grok incorrectly identified our flower as blue-eyed grass (*sisyrinchium bellum*), which it doesn’t resemble at all, so we’re unsure where that information came from.

It responded well to our image prompt, generating a realistic-looking man on a (rather flat) rollercoaster ride. It also gave



Grok produced a realistic man holding a weak cup of tea

us an alternative version, but in both Grok’s cup of tea looked weakly brewed.



Grok provided in-depth instructions for fixing a leaky kitchen tap

VERDICT There’s a lot to like about Grok (aside from its awful name), but its responses are variable in their level of detail and accuracy. This may be caused by it including X posts in its sources.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

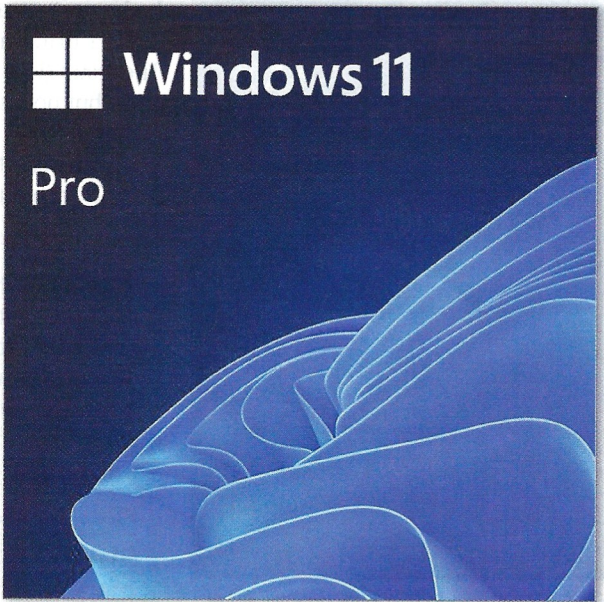
Computer **active** **READER OFFER!**

Buy Windows 11 Pro
for just ~~£79.99~~ £69.99!



In this special offer you can buy **Windows 11 Pro** for just £69.99 – that’s £150 cheaper than Microsoft’s full price of £219.99.

To buy **Windows 11 Pro**, visit www.snipca.com/41588 and click the red Buy Now button on the right.



JUST SO YOU KNOW...

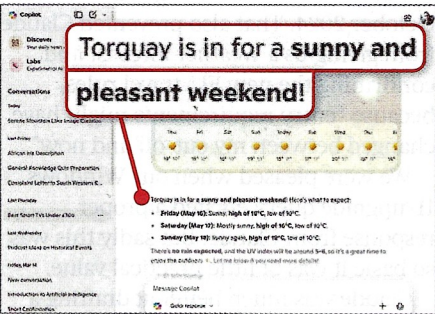
This offer can be used by one person only, and expires at midnight on **17 June, 2025**. It’s a lifetime licence for one computer.

Copilot

www.snipca.com/54872

Microsoft's now ubiquitous 'AI companion' offers many of the same features as ChatGPT – including file analysis, voice mode and a Think Deeper option for more in-depth answers. It's more generous with image generation, letting you create 15 images per day, but its responses to our prompts were hit and miss.

For example, Copilot based its smart-TV recommendations on a single online article, and failed to elaborate beyond the content of that source. More helpful was its weather information, providing a 10-day forecast for Torquay, accompanied by summaries of conditions from Friday to Sunday (see screenshot below).



Copilot helpfully provided us with a 10-day weather forecast for Torquay

On the subject of EU travel, Copilot was not only vague, but wrong. Citing a BBC News article from August 2024, it said ETIAS comes into effect this summer, when it's actually been delayed until late 2026.

As a Microsoft tool, we were surprised when Copilot suggested workarounds for bypassing Windows 11's upgrade requirements. But its advice was so vague they weren't of any use anyway.

Annoyingly, Copilot misunderstood our quiz prompt, generating a quiz for us to take rather than host. Even after we explained what we needed, the chatbot still didn't get it. It was more successful at identifying our flower as an African iris.

Copilot's image generation (below) was satisfactory, though the man's

The man's head in Copilot's picture was too big for his body



Why we haven't included DeepSeek



When DeepSeek launched in January, the Chinese chatbot was touted as a 'ChatGPT killer', and swiftly became the most downloaded Android and iOS app. However, while DeepSeek produces fast, accurate and detailed responses, it's also a privacy nightmare.

Several countries (including Italy, Australia and Canada) and a number of US states have banned use of the app on government devices, amid fears it could pass data to Chinese intelligence agencies.

DeepSeek's privacy policy (www.

snipca.com/54901) confirms it collects and shares a huge amount of your personal data, going far beyond what's required for training AI language models. As you can't use DeepSeek without an account, there's no way to opt out of this data collection.

Additionally, security researchers have discovered hidden tracking code in DeepSeek's apps and website, and vulnerabilities relating to weak encryption. We therefore decided it would be much too risky to include DeepSeek in this feature.

disproportionate head undermined its attempts at realism.

VERDICT Copilot provides responses that appear useful but lack detail on closer inspection. It's fast and friendly, but can't compete with our award winners or Grok.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

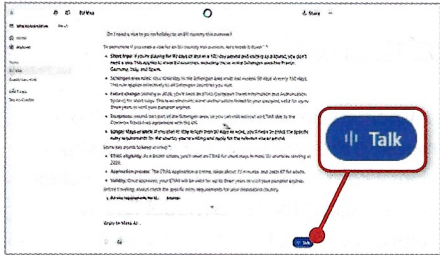
QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

Meta AI

www.meta.ai

You can try Meta AI without signing in, but you must do so using your Facebook account if you want to create images using its Imagine tool or try its Talk voice mode (see screenshot below). Unfortunately, this allows Meta to collect your data to show you personalised ads across its other products.



You need to sign into Meta AI using Facebook to try its Talk voice mode

Our tests got off to a bad start, when Meta AI ignored the key aspect of our budget-TV query by suggesting three models priced over £300. It also missed the point of our question about upgrading to Windows 11, simply telling

us to check if our PC met the relevant requirements.

The chatbot was more helpful with the weekend weather forecast, providing details of cloud cover, wind speed, precipitation and humidity. It also got the basic facts right about ETIAS and fixing a tap, though it didn't go into enough detail to be really helpful.

Meta AI doesn't support uploading files, so we were unable to get a summary of our dark-web feature or an analysis of our flower photo. It responded to our quiz prompt with 10 very easy questions and multiple-choice answers.

After reluctantly signing in to use its Imagine tool, we actually found the results to be great quality. You get four detailed pictures per prompt (with no specified daily limit), which you can customise with different styles and bring to life by clicking Animate (see below).



VERDICT Meta AI compensates for its woolly answers with its impressive image-generation tool. It's just a shame you have to share your data to use it.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

HuggingChat

www.snipca.com/54875

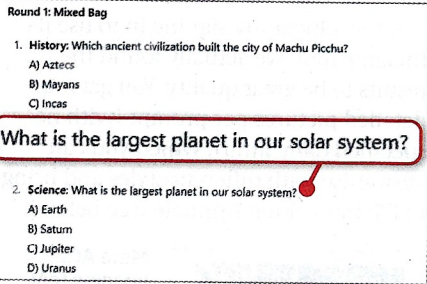


HuggingChat lets you choose from a dozen AI language models, to decide which one best suits your needs. You can also use tools and ‘assistants’ (similar to custom GPTs) created by its community to perform specific tasks such as generating images, analysing documents and writing code. As with the other chatbots in this feature, we stuck with HuggingChat’s default language model.

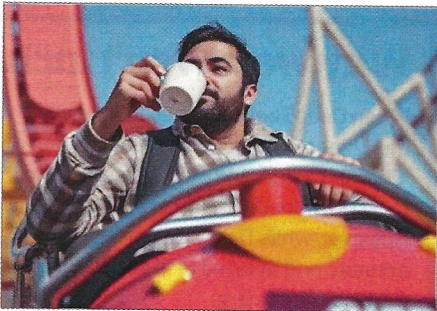
HuggingChat responded speedily, albeit concisely to our TV query, recommending five budget models. It can’t provide real-time weather updates, but suggested several weather websites. The chatbot correctly said you don’t need a visa for short-term EU travel, but incorrectly suggested ETIAS was introduced in 2023.

HuggingChat’s complaint letter to South Western Railway included impressively specific details such as faulty air conditioning and a need to invest in rolling stock. This contrasted with its terse summary of our dark-web feature, which consisted of a single paragraph.

The chatbot used a multiple-choice format for our general-knowledge quiz (see screenshot below), though the 10 questions were so simple (‘What is the largest planet in our solar system?’) this



HuggingChat compiled our quiz in a multiple-choice format, but the questions were too easy



HuggingChat’s image was too small to be of practical use

was hardly necessary. As HuggingChat’s default model can only respond to ‘text-based input’, we activated its Image Generation tool to create our picture (above). The result was acceptable, but the image was too small (768KB) to be much use.

VERDICT HuggingChat is ideal for experimenting with AI models and add-ons, but with its default settings its responses are a mixed bag.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

Claude

www.claude.ai



Anthropic’s Claude chatbot has a more sophisticated interface than rival tools. We particularly like its file-analysis feature, which takes screenshots of web pages (pictured above right) so you can ask questions about their content.

Claude recently added web-search capabilities, but only for Pro users – a subscription costs £13 a month and increases its (unspecified) daily usage



Claude can analyse screenshots you take of your browser tabs

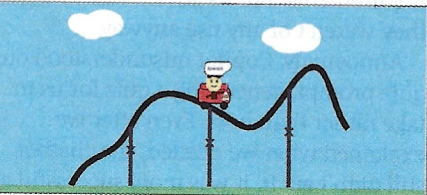
limits. As we discovered, this means you can’t get up-to-date information in its free plan (Anthropic says web search is ‘coming soon’ for free users).

For our smart-TV query, Claude provided a short list of recommendations, but admitted its ‘knowledge cut-off’ was October 2024. That also prevented Claude from giving us a weather forecast and confirming the new EU-travel rules, because “entry requirements might have changed between my cut-off and now”.

We were pleased when our Windows 11-upgrade query elicited a proper response from Claude. But sadly this was so basic it was of little practical value.

Claude was much better at drafting a complaint letter, listing the problems we may have experienced and the actions we wanted the railway to take. It also enthusiastically compiled our general-knowledge quiz, suggesting 30 questions across six categories, and correctly identified our flower.

Claude can’t create photorealistic images of people, so instead it turned our man-on-a-rollercoaster prompt into a child’s drawing (pictured below).



Claude can’t create images of people so drew us a picture instead

VERDICT Claude’s free plan is skimpy on detail and can’t currently search the web. When it adds that feature, we expect it will produce higher-quality responses.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

Try a different language model

Most AI chatbots offer a choice of **large-language models** (LLMs) beyond their default settings. Indeed, HuggingChat and Poe would rank higher in our comparison if we’d rated the variety of LLMs.

Because AI technology is developing at a rapid pace, the latest AI models provide more detailed and accurate results, drawing on a wider range of sources, performing deeper analysis and ‘thinking’ before responding. Some are also ‘multimodal’, which means they can generate images, audio and video in addition to text content.

Google says its new Gemini 2.5 Pro model is the most intelligent yet (www.snipca.com/54916), while OpenAI makes similar claims for its o3 model (www.snipca.com/54917). You can view a leaderboard of LLMs at Chatbot Arena (www.snipca.com/54918).

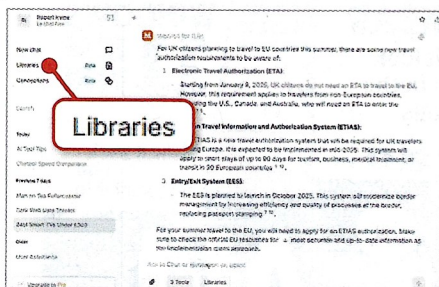
Switching your chatbot’s LLM is as simple as clicking the menu next to the search box or in the top-left corner. The more advanced models are usually only available with a subscription, but you may get a limited trial in your free plan.

Mistral Le Chat

www.snipca.com/54873

French AI company Mistral claims Le Chat is the fastest chatbot in the world. It certainly responds very quickly, faster than all the other tools we tested, though we found it as snippy in tone as it is snappy in speed.

You can ask Le Chat 10 questions a day without an account - doing so removes this limit and unlocks image generation, web search and file analysis. Usefully, you can upload files to a 'library' (see screenshot below) and analyse them from there.



Le Chat responded quickly but perfunctorily to our search queries

Le Chat's smart TV recommendations were perfunctory, failing to draw much information from its cited sources. It also replied curtly to our EU-travel query, mentioning ETIAS (with the wrong date), but without elaboration.

Unlike our award-winning chatbots, its free plan doesn't have an option for more in-depth answers - for that you need to



Le Chat generated a visually impressive AI image

pay £14.99 per month for Le Chat Pro. So we were unsurprised that its options for upgrading Windows 10 to Windows 11 failed to include instructions.

We were also disappointed when Le Chat told us the flower in our photo "appears to be an iris", without suggesting the species. Its image generation (below left) was more impressive, producing a well-composed picture depicting a relaxed man holding a decent cup of tea.

VERDICT Le Chat is impressively fast, but it seems aloof and unhelpful compared to the friendliness of ChatGPT.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

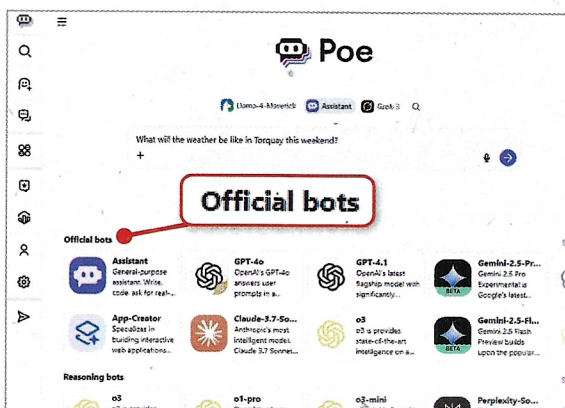
OVERALL ★★★★★

Poe

www.poe.com

Rather than set limits on messages and image generation, Poe has a points system. You get 3,000 points a day to use as you please, with the more advanced AI models and bots - Poe lets you choose from dozens (see screenshot below) - requiring more points per prompt.

This flexibility is great for experimenting and also necessary, because Poe's default assistant can be

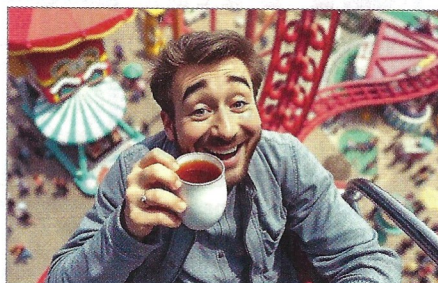


Poe lets you choose between dozens of AI models and chatbots

unreliable. When we asked for a weekend weather forecast, it initially said it couldn't provide real-time updates, but asking again yielded the necessary information. Its response to our EU visa question was outdated, failing to mention ETIAS, and its cursory instructions for fixing a tap used the American term 'faucet'.

Selecting its Web-Search option provided more up-to-date information for our search queries, but the quality still paled in comparison to rival tools.

Poe's letter to South Western Railway was more of a grumble than a complaint, and annoyed us by spelling 'traveller' as 'traveler'. And its three-paragraph summary of our dark-web feature was accurate but didn't indicate the purpose of the piece. Like HuggingChat and Meta AI, Poe used a multiple-choice format for our quiz, and it produce many of the same questions. Poe's default language model can't identify images, but trying a different one (wrongly) said our flower was a Dutch iris. And though its image generation was fast, the result (below) was cartoony, with an unpleasant, plasticky sheen.



Poe's generated image looked cartoony and unpleasant

VERDICT Poe is really a platform for accessing superior AI tools, which it makes easy to do. Its own assistant is rather basic.

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

QUALITY ★★★★★

OVERALL ★★★★★

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