AI Assistants in Detail

An AI assistant is like texting a very knowledgeable helper. You type or speak a question, and it writes back an answer. It is not a person — it is a computer program that has read an enormous amount of writing and predicts the most helpful reply. There are five big names. They all do the same basic job.

The five big names

Each one has a free version. You do not need to pay to try any of them.

The most famous one. A good all-rounder for questions, writing help, and explaining things simply.

How to open it: type chatgpt.com into your web browser, or install the free ChatGPT app on your iPhone or Android phone. Sign up with your email.

Cost: free with limits. A paid plan called Plus is around $20 a month. Prices change, so check before you buy.

The one already on your Windows computer. Handy because there is nothing to install.

How to open it: click the Copilot button on the taskbar at the bottom of your screen, or hold the Windows key and press C. It is also built into the Edge web browser — look for the Copilot mark in the top corner.

Cost: free for everyday use. An optional Pro plan is around $20 a month, which most people do not need.

The one already on Samsung and other Android phones. It replaced the old Google Assistant.

How to open it: press and hold the side button on your phone, then type or speak your question. On a computer, go to gemini.google.com and sign in with your Google account.

Cost: free. A paid plan is around $20 a month. Prices change, so check before you buy.

Known for clear, careful answers. A favorite for writing help and explaining things in plain words.

How to open it: go to claude.ai in your web browser and sign up with your email — no credit card needed for the free version. There is also a free Claude app for phones.

Cost: free with limits. A paid plan called Pro is around $20 a month.

Elon Musk's helper. It lives inside the X app (the one that used to be called Twitter), and it also has its own website and app.

How to open it: go to grok.com in your web browser, or open the X app on your phone and look for Grok.

Cost: free with usage limits. The paid plan is around $30 a month — the priciest of the five. Prices change, so check before you buy.

Which one is easiest to start with?

Start with the one already on your device

- On a Windows computer? Start with Copilot — it is already there on the taskbar.
- On a Samsung or Android phone? Start with Gemini — hold the side button.
- On an iPhone? Install the free ChatGPT app from the App Store, or try Claude at claude.ai in your browser.
- They are all free to try. Pick one, ask it a simple question, and see how you like the answers. You can always try another.

Opening one for the first time

The steps are nearly the same for all five.

1. Open your web browser — Edge, Chrome, or Safari.
2. Type the address — for example, chatgpt.com — and press Enter.
3. Sign up or sign in. Most ask for your email address and send you a code to type in. None of the free versions ask for a credit card.
4. Type your question in the box at the bottom and press Enter or tap the send arrow.
5. Read the answer. If it is not quite right, say so in plain words. “Explain that more simply” works wonders.

Good uses

Things they do well

- Writing help — drafting a letter, a message, or a note.
- Looking things up — quick answers without digging through websites.
- Explaining simply — ask it to explain anything “in simple words.”
- Translating — turning words from one language into another.
- Ideas and planning — recipes, trip ideas, gift ideas.

What to watch out for

AI is useful, but it has limits. Knowing them keeps you safe.

1. It can be wrong — confidently wrong. It sometimes states false things as fact. For anything important — health, money, legal matters — double-check elsewhere or ask Sean.
2. Never share private information. No passwords, no bank account numbers, no Social Security number, no medical details. Treat it like a stranger you just met.
3. Scammers can now fake voices. A caller can sound exactly like a grandchild begging for money. If that happens: hang up and call the person back on the number already saved in your phone. A real emergency survives a two-minute check.

A family code word

- Agree on a secret word with your family for real emergencies. A cloned voice cannot guess it. No code word, no money — hang up and call back.

When to call Sean instead

- An AI answer told you to change a setting or download something and you are unsure — check with Sean first.
- You want help picking one and setting it up on your phone or computer.

Call Sean at (813) 770-6082.

Need a hand? Call Sean at **(813) 770-6082**.