ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

# Google AI Studio

## The Insider’s Guide

Google's workspace for building apps and prototypes with Gemini



**Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI app builders, read from Google AI Studio’s own pages.**

Made by Google · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

3.0
GPA



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ToolGPA put this guide together from Google AI Studio's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Google AI Studio's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

# Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

**3.0**

GPA, above 87 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade

Google AI Studio is a web workspace for trying Gemini models and the Gemini API. Its Build mode generates full-stack web apps and native Android apps from a prompt, with GitHub sync, ZIP export and one-click publishing to Google Cloud Run. Using the studio is free; the Gemini API behind it has free and paid tiers.

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about Google AI Studio**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **It is free, but only within rate limits, some models are not on the free tier, and apps you share spend your usage limits.**
>
> From our report card of Google AI Studio

### 1 Best for building small apps with Gemini for free

Google AI Studio lets you describe an app and have Gemini build it, with GitHub sync, ZIP export and one-click publishing to Cloud Run.

### 2 It is free

Google AI Studio has no paid plan at all. Free access to AI Studio, including Build mode, with limited access to some models and free input and output tokens within rate limits.

**3** **It runs on Web**

Web.

**4** **Build mode**

Describe an app and the agent creates a full-stack web app or a native Android app in Kotlin and Jetpack Compose, then iterates through chat.

**5** **Annotation mode**

Highlight part of the running app's interface and describe the change you want, instead of writing it out in chat.

**6** **GitHub sync and ZIP export**

Connect a repository for two-way sync, or download the generated code as a ZIP to work in your own editor.

**7** **A 3.0 GPA, above 87 of 89**

That is against the other AI app builders we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

**8** **Keep it**

Google AI Studio is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

### Google AI Studio at a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| PRICING<br>Free | FREE PLAN<br>Yes |
| FREE TRIAL<br>None stated | RUNS ON<br>Web |
| MADE BY<br>Google | CATEGORY<br>AI App Builders |
| OUR GRADE<br>3.0 GPA, very good | |

## The report card

### Best for building small apps with Gemini for free

Google AI Studio lets you describe an app and have Gemini build it, with GitHub sync, ZIP export and one-click publishing to Cloud Run. It is free, but

only within rate limits, some models are not on the free tier, and apps you share spend your usage limits.

| TOOLGPA REPORT CARD | Google AI Studio | Graded Nov 13, 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| SUBJECT | GRADE | COMMENT |
| **Value for money** | A | Free to use, including Build mode, with free tokens within rate limits. The category's cheaper quarter starts at $15 a month. |
| **Free plan and trial** | B | Free access with limits on some models and rate limits on tokens. One person could build several apps on it without paying. |
| **Features** | B | Build mode, annotation mode, GitHub sync, ZIP export, publish to Cloud Run and an app gallery. It covers the job of building and publishing a small app, on Gemini models only. |
| **Ease of use** | C | No store rating on record. The work is describing and fixing the app yourself. |
| **Platforms and integrations** | B | Web, with GitHub, ZIP export and Cloud Run listed. No desktop or phone app. |
| **Grade point average** | | Very good, out of 4.0 **3.0** |

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

### Who Google AI Studio is for

- ✓ Fits if you want to try an app idea without paying
- ✓ Works for developers already in Google Cloud who want to publish to Cloud Run

### Who it is not for

- ✗ Tight if you hit the free limits, as some models are off the free tier
- ✗ Watch out: when you share an app, its Gemini calls count toward your usage and paid models can cost money
- ✗ Watch out: Cloud Run charges apply to published apps by usage
- ✗ Not for you if you mind data use: free-tier content may be used to improve Google's products, says the pricing page

## Good to know

### Good for

- ✓ Developers prototyping apps that call Gemini models
- ✓ Anyone who wants to try AI app building without a subscription
- ✓ Teams that plan to deploy on Google Cloud Run

### Worth knowing

- ⓘ The paid Gemini API tier bills tokens per million; the top Gemini 4 Carbon model is not available on the free tier.
- ⓘ When you share an app, its Gemini API calls count toward your usage limits, and paid models may cost money.
- ⓘ Cloud Run pricing applies to published apps based on usage.
- ⓘ Free-tier content may be used to improve Google's products, according to the pricing page.

# What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

**Free**

No paid plan at all

Google AI Studio is free to use.

> **Free to use, including Build mode, with free tokens within rate limits.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

## $0

AI Studio access with limited model access and free tokens; content may be used to improve Google products.

### The free plan

Free access to AI Studio, including Build mode, with limited access to some models and free input and output tokens within rate limits.

Read from aistudio.google.com on Nov 13, 2026.

# What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Google's workspace for building apps and prototypes with Gemini. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, AI agents, app builder.

> **Build mode, annotation mode, GitHub sync, ZIP export, publish to Cloud Run and an app gallery.**
>
> From our grade for features

### Build mode

Describe an app and the agent creates a full-stack web app or a native Android app in Kotlin and Jetpack Compose, then iterates through chat.

### Annotation mode

Highlight part of the running app's interface and describe the change you want, instead of writing it out in chat.

### GitHub sync and ZIP export

Connect a repository for two-way sync, or download the generated code as a ZIP to work in your own editor.

### Publish to Cloud Run

Deploy a finished app as a Cloud Run service. Custom domains can be bought and connected from the Publish panel on a paid Google Cloud project.

## Gemini features as building blocks

AI chips add capabilities such as image generation, Google Maps data or the Live API to a prompt, and the Gemini API key is set up server-side for you.

## App gallery

A gallery of example apps can be previewed and remixed as starting points.

### Where it runs

Web

### What it works with

GitHub
Google Cloud Run
Google Maps
Firebase
Gemini API

Google AI Studio is made by Google.

# Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

**87/89**

Other AI app builders it is graded above

Google AI Studio's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 87 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade, and level with 1.

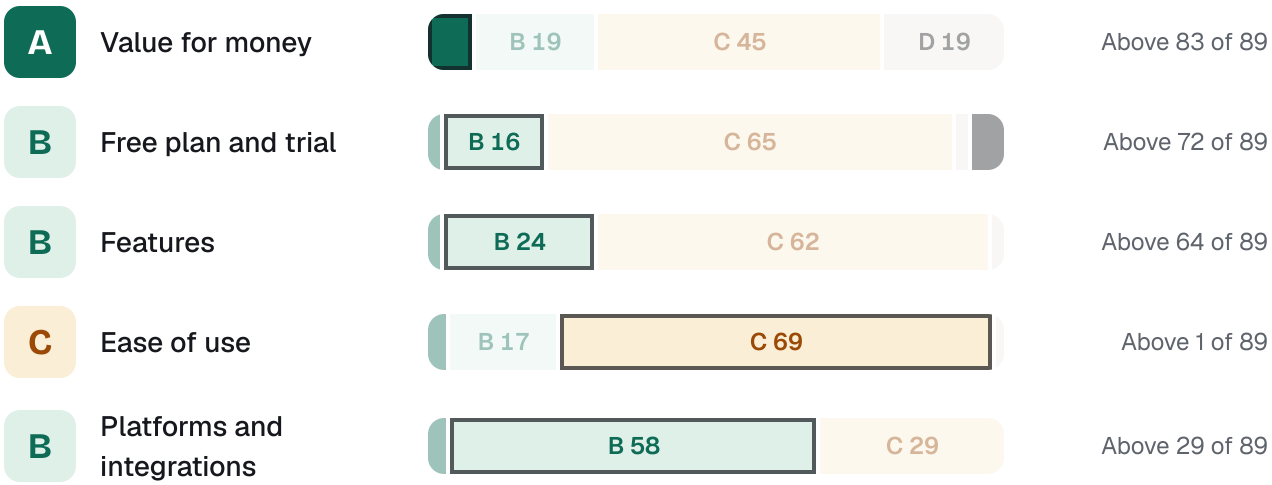
It stands best on value for money (A, above 83 of 89) and worst on ease of use (C, above 1).

Google AI Studio has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.7 out of 4, and no tool on the category's chart scores higher without costing more.

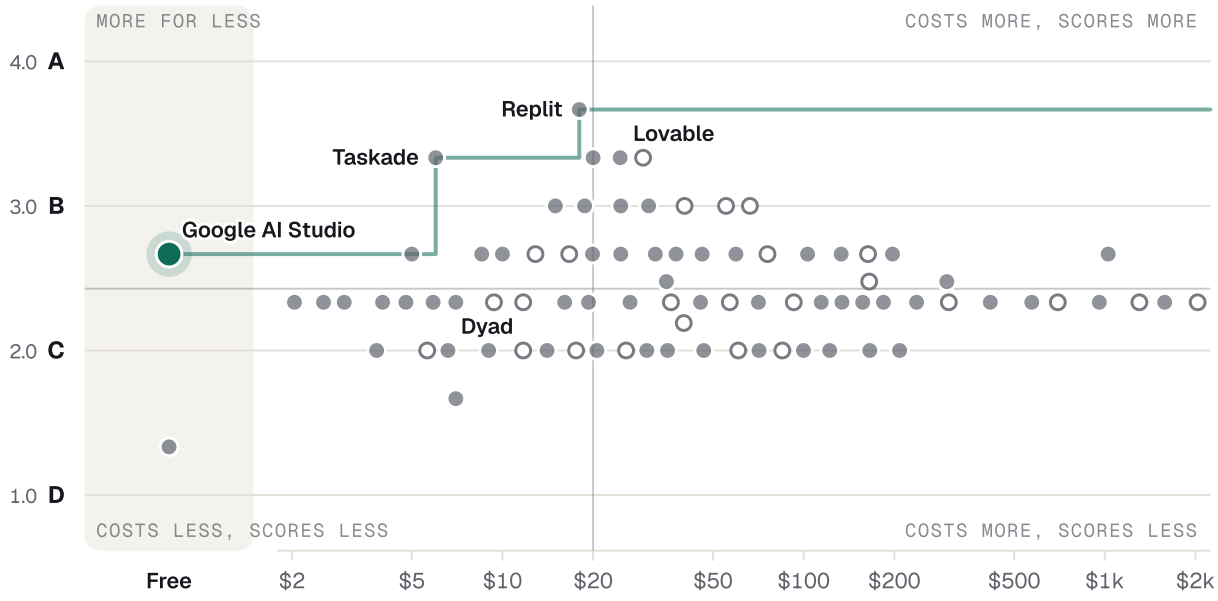
## Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 90 AI app builders we grade, cut by the letter each got. Google AI Studio's own letter is outlined.



## Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 85 AI app builders. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Google AI Studio is the marked dot.




What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

## Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

### Keep it

Google AI Studio is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 87 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade.

**What you could not**

- ✕ A tool that builds and hosts other apps.
- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.

- It plugs into other products, GitHub, Google Cloud Run and Google Maps among them, and has an API.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

**What this rests on.** Google AI Studio's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

# The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Lovable, Bolt and Replit

The 3 tools Google AI Studio is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.8 GPA

## Lovable

Free plan · from $21/mo

Chat-based AI builder for full-stack web apps and websites.

- Only Lovable lists macOS, Windows, iOS and Android apps.
- Google AI Studio also covers AI agents.
- Lovable also covers no-code.

Google AI Studio and Lovable compared in full

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2.6 GPA

## Bolt

Free plan · from $18/mo

Browser-based AI builder for websites, web apps and mobile apps.

- Google AI Studio also covers AI agents.
- Bolt also covers no-code.

Google AI Studio and Bolt compared in full

3.0
GPA

## Replit

Free plan · from $18/mo

Cloud platform where an AI agent builds, hosts and publishes apps.

- Only Replit lists macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android apps.
- Replit also covers no-code.

Google AI Studio and Replit compared in full

# Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

### Is Google AI Studio free?

Yes. Google AI Studio is free to use.

### How much does Google AI Studio cost?

Google AI Studio lists one plan. Free: $0.

### What platforms does Google AI Studio work on?

Google AI Studio is available on Web.

### Does Google AI Studio have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Google AI Studio is listed for Web.

### Does Google AI Studio have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Google AI Studio is listed for Web.

### Is Google AI Studio open source?

Google AI Studio is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

### Does Google AI Studio have an API?

Yes. Google AI Studio offers a public API, according to its own site.

### What does Google AI Studio integrate with?

Google AI Studio's listing names GitHub, Google Cloud Run, Google Maps, Firebase and Gemini API.

### Who makes Google AI Studio?

Google AI Studio is made by Google.

### What are the alternatives to Google AI Studio?

The closest alternatives to Google AI Studio in our directory are Lovable, Bolt and Replit.

### How does Google AI Studio compare with other AI app builders?

Google AI Studio's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 87 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade, and level with 1.

### Is Google AI Studio good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Google AI Studio A for value for money. Google AI Studio has no paid plan.

### Could I make my own version of Google AI Studio?

Google AI Studio is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

## Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Google AI Studio's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Google's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews. Its pricing page would not load in full, so the prices come from the listing.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Google. Prices change, so check aistudio.google.com before you buy.

aistudio.google.com/docs/pricing

aistudio.google.com/docs/aistudio-build-mode

# About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

**7,721**

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at [toolgpa.com](toolgpa.com).

| 7,721 | 95 | 739 | 579 |
|---|---|---|---|
| tools graded | categories | price changes on record | apps priced in 12 countries |

## What else is on toolgpa.com

### Google AI Studio, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/google-ai-studio

### How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

### Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

### Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

### Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

### Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

### Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

### Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

**Scan for the live page**

Prices and grades as they are today

### Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

```
ToolGPA, "Google AI Studio: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/google-ai-studio
```

### Know someone choosing between AI app builders?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/google-ai-studio/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

# See our other guides

The best-graded AI app builders after Google AI Studio, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

### AI App Builders Insider's Guide

Every one of the 90 AI app builders we grade, compared

### Taskade Insider's Guide

Workspace that builds apps, AI agents and automations from prompts

3.2 GPA

### Replit Insider's Guide

Cloud platform where an AI agent builds, hosts and publishes apps

3.0 GPA

### AppSheet Insider's Guide

Google's no-code app and automation builder, with Gemini help

2.8 GPA

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## Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Google AI Studio's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Google AI Studio is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Google. Prices and plans change: check aistudio.google.com before you buy.