ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Moonlight

The Insider's Guide

AI reader for research papers with explanations and translation



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI research tools, read from Moonlight's own pages.

Made by Corca, Inc. · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2
GPA



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ToolGPA put this guide together from Moonlight's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Moonlight's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

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

2.2

GPA, above 7 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade

Moonlight is a web-based PDF reader for research papers with AI built into the viewer. You select a passage, figure, table or equation to get an explanation in context, chat about the paper, translate it line by line, and see citation details without leaving the page. A library organizes papers, and plans differ in which AI models they can use.

> "
>
> **Upload a paper and read, but features like deep search take some learning.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Moonlight**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

1 **Best for reading research papers with in-context explanations**

Moonlight is an AI reader for research papers with explanations, translation and a library.

2 **Paid plans start at $10 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $10 per month, billed annually ($12 billed monthly).

3 **There is a free plan**

Unlimited document access, with AI features limited to 3 papers a week.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web, with a browser extension too.

5 **Explain in context**

Select any part of a paper to get an explanation of the passage, a figure, a table or an equation, without copying and pasting.

6 **Layout-preserving translation**

Translates a paper line by line, aligned with the original, and can translate whole pages.

7 **Smart citations**

Shows details of a cited reference in a preview so you can check it without leaving your place in the paper.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 7 of 49**

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

9 **Keep it**

To replace Moonlight you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Moonlight at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $10 per month, billed annually ($12 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web, Browser extension
MADE BY Corca, Inc.	CATEGORY AI Research Tools
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for reading research papers with in-context explanations

Moonlight is an AI reader for research papers with explanations, translation and a library. The free plan lets you open unlimited papers but only 3 a week get AI features, and the models you can use depend on a plan that goes up to $49 a month.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Moonlight	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Pro is $10 a month billed yearly ($12 monthly), the category's middle. Premium, which adds Claude and Gemini Pro models, is $49.
Free plan and trial	C	A free plan with unlimited document access and AI on 3 papers a week, on two base models. A reader doing more than 3 a week will hit it.
Features	C	Explanations in context, layout-preserving translation, citations, chat and summary and a library. Several features are marked Limited on Free.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record. Upload a paper and read, but features like deep search take some learning.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web and a Chrome extension. No desktop or mobile app was found, and no integrations are listed.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 Moonlight is for

- ✓ Fits if you read a few papers a week and want explanations beside the text
- ✓ Works for readers who need a paper translated with its layout kept

Who it is not for

- ✕ Tight if you stay free: AI features on only 3 papers a week
- ✕ Pricey if you want Claude or Gemini Pro models, which means Premium at $49 a month
- ✕ Watch out: Team plans are priced by seat tier and the billing basis isn't shown
- ✕ Watch out: no desktop or mobile app, and no integrations are listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Graduate students reading papers in a second language
- ✓ Researchers who want explanations beside the PDF rather than in a separate chat
- ✓ Labs that want a shared plan with per-seat discounts

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The Free plan limits AI features to 3 papers a week, and several features are marked Limited there.
- ⓘ Which AI models you can use depends on the plan: Premium adds the most expensive ones, including Claude and Gemini Pro models.
- ⓘ Team plans are priced per user in seat tiers (1-3, 4-15, 16-29), with 30 or more seats handled through a partnership; the Team billing basis is not shown.
- ⓘ The homepage source links a Chrome Web Store listing; no desktop or mobile app was found on the pages read.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$10

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Moonlight has a free plan. Paid plans start at $10 per month, billed annually ($12 billed monthly).

FREE

$0

Unlimited document access with limited AI features on 3 papers a week and two base models.

PRO

$10

per month, billed annually ($12 billed monthly)

Unlimited AI-assisted papers, 5 infographic explanations a week and selected advanced models. Marked with a 1-week free trial.

PREMIUM

$49

per month, billed annually ($59 billed monthly)

Everything in Pro with access to all models, including Claude and Gemini Pro models, and 30 infographic explanations a week.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

For larger teams and organizations; contact the vendor. Team seat pricing is shown for 1 to 29 seats.

The free plan

Unlimited document access, with AI features limited to 3 papers a week.

Read from themoonlight.io on Nov 12, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

17% off with annual billing

The pricing page marks the Year option as saving 17-20%; Pro is $10 a month on annual billing against $12 monthly, and Premium $49 against $59.

Stated on themoonlight.io

What it does

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

2

Places it runs: Web and Browser extension

AI reader for research papers with explanations and translation. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, chat assistant, research, citations, highlights.

> **Explanations in context, layout-preserving translation, citations, chat and summary and a library.**
>
> From our grade for features

Explain in context

Select any part of a paper to get an explanation of the passage, a figure, a table or an equation, without copying and pasting.

Layout-preserving translation

Translates a paper line by line, aligned with the original, and can translate whole pages.

Smart citations

Shows details of a cited reference in a preview so you can check it without leaving your place in the paper.

Chat and summary

Ask questions and discuss the paper, and get keywords and a summary of the key points.

Library and deep search

Organizes papers in a library and recommends related papers based on what the library holds.

Markup and auto highlight

Highlight, annotate and take notes, or let the tool underline key points automatically.

Where it runs

Web

Browser extension

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Moonlight is made by Corca, Inc.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

7 /49

Other AI research tools it is graded above

Moonlight's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 7 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 11.

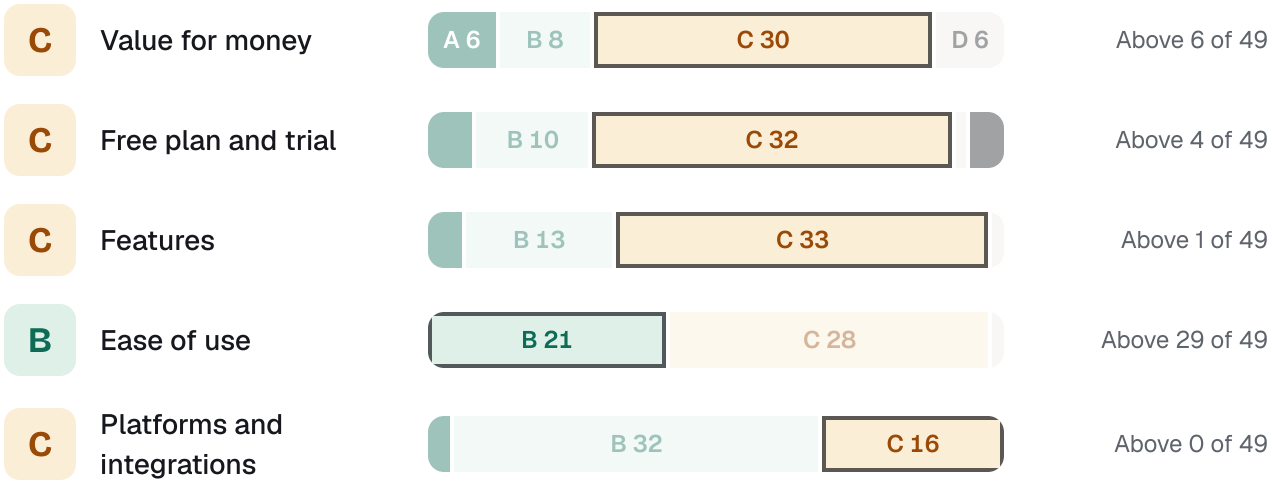
It stands best on ease of use (B, above 29 of 49) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 15 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 10 tools score higher and cost less.

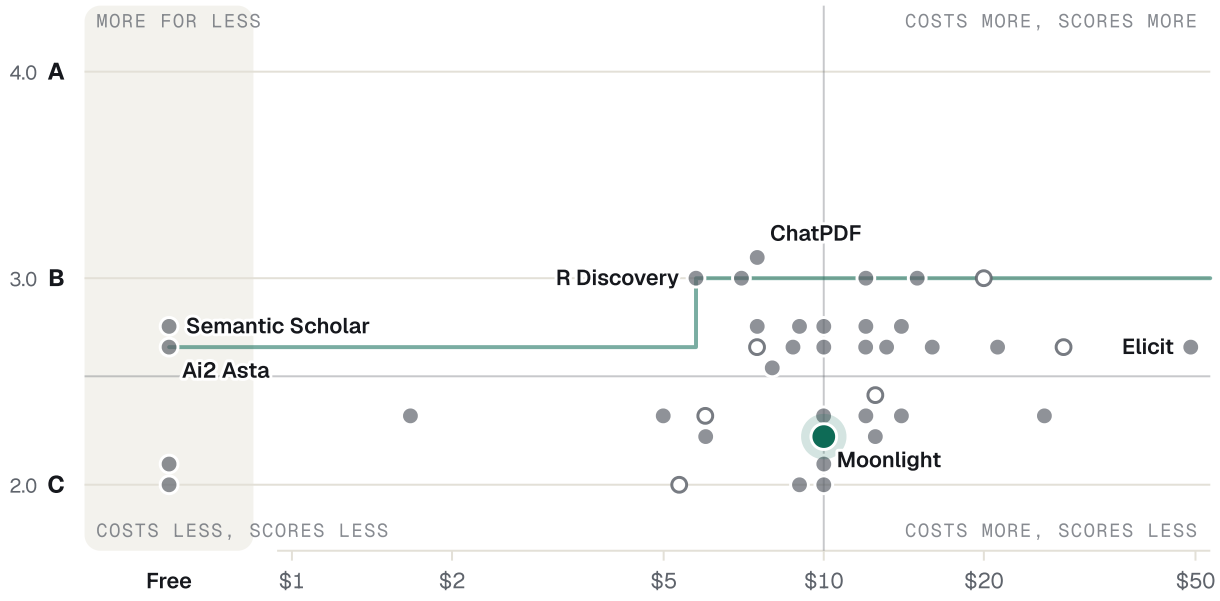
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 50 AI research tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Moonlight's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 40 AI research tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Moonlight 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

To replace Moonlight you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 31 of the 49 other AI research tools grade higher. It costs $120 a year.

What you could make

- Highlights: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A library of papers and sources to search.

- An AI model, which you can rent by the request but not make.
- Citation records for millions of papers.

What this rests on. Moonlight'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



SciSpace, Explainpaper, alphaXiv, Paperguide and OpenRead

The 5 tools Moonlight is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.4 GPA

SciSpace

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature review and reading papers.

- Only SciSpace lists an iOS app.
- Moonlight also covers highlights.
- SciSpace also covers AI search and AI agents.

Moonlight and SciSpace compared in full

2.4 GPA

Explainpaper

Free plan · from $12/mo

Highlight confusing text in a paper and get a plain explanation.

- Only Moonlight lists a browser extension.
- Moonlight also covers citations.
- Explainpaper also covers documents.

Moonlight and Explainpaper compared in full



2.4 GPA

alphaXiv

Free plan · from $8/mo

arXiv reading and discovery site with an AI research assistant.

- Only alphaXiv lists an iOS app.
- Moonlight also covers citations.
- alphaXiv also covers AI search.

Moonlight and alphaXiv compared in full



2.6 GPA

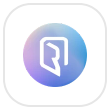
Paperguide

Free plan · from $12/mo

AI research platform for literature and systematic reviews.

- Moonlight also covers highlights.
- Paperguide also covers AI search, AI agents and long-form writing.

Moonlight and Paperguide compared in full



2.0 GPA

OpenRead

Free plan

AI platform for searching, reading and comparing papers.

- Only Moonlight lists a browser extension.
- Moonlight also covers citations and highlights.
- OpenRead also covers AI search and notes.

Moonlight and OpenRead compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

12

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 Moonlight free?

Moonlight has a free plan. Unlimited document access, with AI features limited to 3 papers a week.

How much does Moonlight cost?

Moonlight lists 4 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Moonlight work on?

Moonlight is available on Web. It also has a browser extension.

Does Moonlight offer any discounts?

Moonlight publicly lists the following: 17% off with annual billing.

Does Moonlight have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Moonlight is listed for Web.

Does Moonlight have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Moonlight is listed for Web.

Is Moonlight open source?

Moonlight is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Who makes Moonlight?

Moonlight is made by Corca, Inc.

What are the alternatives to Moonlight?

The closest alternatives to Moonlight in our directory are SciSpace, Explainpaper, alphaXiv, Paperguide and OpenRead.

How does Moonlight compare with other AI research tools?

Moonlight's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 7 of the 49 other AI research tools we grade, and level with 11.

Is Moonlight good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Moonlight C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $10 for the category: 15 of the 35 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Moonlight?

To replace Moonlight you would be making a library of papers and sources to search.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Moonlight's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Moonlight's own pages on 12 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

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 Corca, Inc. Prices change, so check themoonlight.io before you buy.

themoonlight.io/en/pricing

chromewebstore.google.com/detail/moonlight/lhi...

themoonlight.io/en

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

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

5,038

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**.

5,038	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Moonlight, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/moonlight

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:

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ToolGPA, "Moonlight: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/moonlight
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Know someone choosing between AI research tools?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/moonlight/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI research tools after Moonlight, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI Research Tools Insider's Guide

Every one of the 50 AI research tools we grade, compared

Ai2 Asta Insider's Guide

AI research assistant for finding papers and analyzing data

3.2 GPA

Semantic Scholar Insider's Guide

Free AI-powered search engine for scientific literature

3.2 GPA

ChatPDF Insider's Guide

Ask questions about PDFs and get answers with citations

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Moonlight'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. Moonlight is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Corca, Inc. Prices and plans change: check themoonlight.io before you buy.