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ChatGPT vs. Gemini vs. Copilot — Which One for What

Three AI helpers, one easy choice — how to pick the right one and stop worrying about the rest

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3

The Short Version 3

What All Three Have in Common 4

ChatGPT — The All-Rounder 5

Gemini — Google's Helper 5

Copilot — Built Into Windows 6

A Side-by-Side at a Glance 7

Which Should YOU Use? A Simple Rule 7

The Same Task on Each 8

Where They Genuinely Differ 8

Do You Need to Pay for Any of Them? 9

The One Rule That Applies to All Three 10

Trying a Second One Later 10

Common Worries, Answered 11

When to Call Bill 12

Everyday Cheat Sheet 13

A Note From Bill 14

Your Visit — and My Promise 15

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot are three AI chat helpers that mostly do the same things — write, explain, summarize, answer, and talk by voice — so for everyday use you can't go wrong with any of them. The easy rule: use whichever is already on the device you use most. Android phones have Gemini built in, Windows computers have Copilot, and ChatGPT works nicely on anything, making it the safe all-rounder.

All three have a free version that's plenty to start; paid plans (around $20/month) are optional. Pick one, get comfortable, and don't worry about the others. And whichever you choose, double-check anything about money, health, deadlines, or phone numbers — all of them can be confidently wrong.

- Use the one already on your main device — no wrong choice.
- Free versions are plenty; paid is optional.
- All three can be wrong — double-check what matters.

1 The Short Version

You have heard the names — ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot — and maybe wondered which one you are supposed to use. Here is the reassuring truth: they are all AI chat helpers that do the same basic job, and for most everyday tasks you cannot go wrong with any of them. You do not need to learn all three. This guide helps you pick the one that fits your life and shows you what each is quietly best at.

We will keep the comparisons plain and practical, skip the hype, and give you an honest bottom line. By the end you will know which one to open for a given task, and — just as useful — that it is perfectly fine to pick one and stop worrying about the rest.

- ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot are three AI chat helpers that mostly do the same things.

- ChatGPT is the all-rounder; Gemini is woven into Google and Android; Copilot is built into Windows.
- All three have a free version that is plenty for everyday use.
- Pick one, get comfortable, and ignore the rest — you are not missing out.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> If you want the shortest possible answer: use whichever is already on the device you use most. On an Android phone that's Gemini, on a Windows computer that's Copilot, and ChatGPT works nicely everywhere. There is no wrong choice.

2 What All Three Have in Common

Before the differences, it helps to see how much is shared, because that is where the reassurance lives. These three tools are more alike than different.

- You ask a question or give a request in plain words, and it answers.
- They can write, summarize, explain, brainstorm, and translate.
- They can be talked to by voice, not just typed to.
- They all have a free version and a paid version.
- And — importantly — they can all be confidently wrong, so all of them need double-checking on things that matter.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Because they share the same underlying idea, a skill you learn on one carries straight over to the others. Time spent getting comfortable with any single one is never wasted.

3 ChatGPT — The All-Rounder

ChatGPT, made by a company called OpenAI, is the one most people have heard of, and it is an excellent general-purpose helper. It works on any phone or computer through its app or website, so it is not tied to any particular brand of device. If you want one tool that does a bit of everything and goes wherever you go, this is the easy pick.

- Strongest at: writing, explaining things clearly, and general conversation.
- Works everywhere: iPhone, Android, Windows, Mac, and any web browser.
- Has a friendly voice mode that feels like a real conversation.
- Free version is generous; a paid plan adds speed and extra features.

WATCH OUT

ChatGPT is a wonderful "explain it to me simply" companion. Paste in a confusing letter, a bit of medical jargon, or a tech error and ask it to put it in plain English — it is patient and never makes you feel foolish for asking.

4 Gemini — Google's Helper

Gemini is Google's AI, and its superpower is that it is woven into things you may already use — Google Search, Gmail, and especially Android phones, where it is often the built-in assistant. If you live in Google's world, Gemini is right there and already knows its way around.

- Strongest at: working alongside Google services and answering with up-to-date web information.
- Built into most Android phones as the assistant you talk to.
- Handy inside Gmail and other Google apps for drafting and summarizing.
- Free version is capable; paid plans tie in with Google storage and extras.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you have an Android phone, you very likely already have Gemini — it is frequently the assistant that answers when you hold the home button or say "Hey Google." There may be nothing to install at all.

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5 Copilot — Built Into Windows

Copilot is Microsoft's AI, and its home turf is the Windows computer, where it comes built in for free. If your main device is a Windows laptop or desktop, Copilot is already sitting on your taskbar, ready to help without installing anything.

- Strongest at: helping right on your Windows computer and inside Microsoft programs like Word.
- Built into Windows — look for it on the taskbar or press the Copilot key.
- Good for drafting documents, explaining settings, and general questions.
- Free to use; a paid version adds features inside Office apps.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is a whole companion guide, "Copilot in Windows — What It Can Do for You," if the Windows computer is your main machine. For most people, Copilot plus nothing else is a perfectly complete setup.

6 A Side-by-Side at a Glance

Here is the whole comparison on one small table. Do not overthink it — this is a tie-breaker, not a test.

	ChatGPT	Gemini	Copilot
Made by	OpenAI	Google	Microsoft
Best home	Any device	Android & Google apps	Windows computer
Great for	Writing, explaining	Google services, web info	Windows help, Office
Free version	Yes	Yes	Yes
Talk to it	Yes	Yes	Yes

GOOD TO KNOW

Notice the bottom three rows are identical. The real difference is just which device each one feels most at home on. That is genuinely most of the decision.

7 Which Should YOU Use? A Simple Rule

Here is a decision you can make in ten seconds, based on the device you reach for most.

1. Mostly use an Android phone? Start with Gemini — it is already there.
2. Mostly use a Windows computer? Start with Copilot — it is already there.
3. Use an iPhone or a mix of things, or just want one that travels everywhere? Start with ChatGPT.
4. Still unsure? Pick ChatGPT. It is the safe all-rounder and works on anything.

WATCH OUT

You are allowed to try more than one and keep your favorite — they are free. But you do not have to. One good AI helper you are comfortable with beats three you half-know.

8 The Same Task on Each

To make it concrete, imagine you want help writing a thank-you note. Here is how the request looks on each — notice it is essentially the same.

- ChatGPT: open the app or website, type or speak "Help me write a short thank-you note to my neighbor for watching the dog."
- Gemini: open Gemini (or say "Hey Google"), and ask the exact same thing.
- Copilot: open Copilot on your Windows taskbar, and ask the exact same thing.

GOOD TO KNOW

The request is identical, the result is similar, and the way you refine it — "make it warmer," "a bit shorter" — is the same on all three. This is why the choice matters far less than people fear.

9 Where They Genuinely Differ

For most people the three are interchangeable. But if you want the honest fine print, here are the real differences that occasionally tip the choice.

- Up-to-the-minute web facts: Gemini, tied to Google, often has an edge on very recent information.
- Working inside your documents: Copilot (in Office) and Gemini (in Google apps) can act right where you already work.
- Pure writing and gentle explaining: many people find ChatGPT's tone the most natural.

- Voice conversation: all three are good, and ChatGPT's and Gemini's voice modes are especially fluid.

GOOD TO KNOW

These differences matter to heavy users and specialists. For ordinary questions, drafting a note, or explaining something confusing, you will not notice them. Do not let fine print stall your choice.

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10 Do You Need to Pay for Any of Them?

Short answer: almost certainly not, to start. All three have free versions that handle everyday use comfortably. The paid versions (typically around $20 a month) add speed, newer features, higher limits, and tie-ins with other paid services — useful for frequent or demanding users, but overkill for most people finding their feet.

WATCH OUT

If an app pressures you to subscribe before it will answer a simple question, something is off — the real ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot all let you start for free. Be wary of copycat apps in the app stores that charge for what the genuine ones give away. A companion guide, "Free vs. Paid AI," covers this in full.

11 The One Rule That Applies to All Three

Whichever you choose, the single most important habit is the same: these tools can be confidently, convincingly wrong. They can invent facts, give an out-of-date answer, or state a fake phone number as if it were real. This is true of ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot equally.

- Double-check anything involving money, health, deadlines, or legal rights.
- Never trust a phone number or support contact from a chatbot without confirming it officially.
- Treat the answer as a knowledgeable friend's first guess, not the last word.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> There is a companion guide, "Can You Trust What AI Tells You? How to Double-Check," devoted to this. It is the one habit that keeps AI a help rather than a hazard — and it works the same no matter which one you picked.

12 Trying a Second One Later

Once you are comfortable with your first choice, there is no harm in trying another — they are free, and comparing their answers on the same question can be genuinely useful. But do it out of curiosity, not obligation. Many people happily use one for years and never feel they are missing anything.

- Ask the same question of two of them and see which answer you prefer — a nice way to build judgment.
- Keep the sign-in details for each somewhere safe so you are not locked out later.
- Resist installing every AI app you see; two you understand beat six you don't.
- If you ever feel overwhelmed by choice, retreat to your one favorite — that is the right move, not a failure.

TIP

Comparing two answers to the same question is also a quiet way to catch mistakes: if ChatGPT and Gemini disagree on a fact, that disagreement is your cue to check it with a trusted source before relying on it.

13 Common Worries, Answered

A few fears come up again and again when people weigh these tools. Here they are, answered plainly, because worry is usually what holds people back more than any real difficulty.

You might worry…	The reassuring truth…
"I'll pick the wrong one."	There is no wrong one for everyday use; they're more alike than different.
"It'll cost me money."	All three start free; you'll be clearly told before anything charges you.
"I'll break something."	You can't break it by asking questions — the worst case is a so-so answer.
"It'll spy on me."	Don't type secrets, and you can limit what's stored in the settings.

GOOD TO KNOW

Notice that none of the common worries are really about choosing between the three — they are about using AI at all. Once you see that, the choice itself stops feeling heavy. Pick one and begin; the comfort comes from use, not from deciding perfectly.

14 When to Call Bill

Choosing between ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot should not be stressful, but the app stores are crowded with look-alikes, the sign-in steps differ, and it helps to see each one running on your own device before you decide. That is an easy thing to sort out together.

I come to you, help you pick the one that fits the devices you actually use, install or open the genuine version (not a copycat), get you signed in, and walk you through the same real task on it so it clicks. I will set it up so you are never nudged into paying for something you do not need, and leave you with one tool you feel at home with.

- You want help choosing which one fits your devices and habits.
- You are unsure which apps are the genuine ones versus paid copycats.
- Sign-in or setup is giving you trouble.
- You want to practice a few real tasks on your chosen helper until it feels easy.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Pick one, get comfortable, ignore the rest — you're not missing out.

I want to...	Do this...
Pick in 10 seconds	Android Gemini; Windows Copilot; iPhone/mixed ChatGPT
Just want one that travels	Choose ChatGPT — works on any device
Get Google/web-fresh facts	Gemini has a slight edge on recent information
Work inside documents	Copilot (in Office) or Gemini (in Google apps)
Avoid overpaying	All three are free to start; around $20/mo is optional, often unnecessary
Stay safe on all three	Double-check money, health, deadlines, and phone numbers
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

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GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

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