

Which AI, Honestly

ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini for the jobs a house actually generates. No fandom, no benchmarks, no winner crowned. **Every comparison you have read was written by someone who uses this for four hours a day.** You need it for eleven minutes, twice, on a Tuesday.

The best one is the one you will actually open at 9pm with a form in your hand.

That is not a dodge. If you already have one open, use that one. Switching costs you more than the difference between them. This page is for deciding which one to put on your home screen in the first place, and for the few jobs where the difference is real enough to be worth a second app.

What actually differs

Four things matter for household jobs. Everything else is noise at this altitude.

1 · Does it read a photo without paying?

The biggest one, because the camera is the fast way into most household jobs. The form, the fridge, the beeping appliance, the sign in the parking lot. All three read photos.

2 · Does it remember your house?

The difference between typing “family of four, one kid will not eat sauce” every single time and never typing it again. All three have some version of memory. They differ in how much you steer it.

3 · Will it hold a long document?

Matters for the twelve-page handbook, the insurance letter, the camp packet. If you paste something long and the answer only reflects the first third, that is what went wrong.

4 · Is it already wired to your life?

Gemini sits closest to a Google account, which matters if your calendar, your email, and the school’s shared documents already live there. Genuine convenience, and the main reason to pick it.

A note on dates

As of August 2026. These three change what sits on the free tier every few months, and anything printed about limits goes stale faster than anything printed about behavior. So this sheet prints no prices, no message caps, no version numbers. Check the current tier yourself in thirty seconds instead: open the one you are curious about and ask it, “*What can I do on the free tier today, and what needs a paid plan? Be specific about photos, file uploads, and memory.*” It will tell you. It is the only spec sheet that is never out of date.

By the job

Pick by what is in your hand, not by what is trending.

A photo of a form, menu, sign, or worksheet

ANY

Least difference between them, biggest payoff. Use whichever is already on your phone and do not spend a minute choosing.

The long thing nobody wants to read

CLAUDE

Handbook, lease, insurance letter, camp packet. Steadiest on long documents. Ask for what it wants, what it costs, when it is due, and anything easy to miss on the back.

Writing that has to sound like you

CLAUDE OR CHATGPT

Thank-yous, the email to the teacher, the family update. Give it three real sentences in your own words first. The sample matters more than the brand.

Anything touching your Google calendar or Gmail

GEMINI

For the plumbing reason and no other. If your life is not in Google, this advantage does not exist for you.

Talking it through out loud while driving

CHATGPT

The most natural voice mode of the three for real back-and-forth. Genuinely useful for a brain dump on the way home, when your hands are busy and the list is loudest.

A repeating job you want to hand over for good

ANY

Handing over a job means writing the standing instructions down once, and all three will hold them.

Homework help that does not do the homework

ANY

All three will do the kid's homework if you ask badly. All three will tutor if you ask well. The instruction is the variable.

Medical, legal, or money questions

TRANSLATION ONLY

"Say this in plain English and tell me the two questions to ask." Never for the decision. Same answer for all three, and this one is a hard line.

How to pick in four minutes

Do not read reviews. Take the same real thing from your house, a form or a letter actually on your counter right now, and give it to two of them with the identical question. Read both answers. One will feel more like it understood what you were actually asking. **That is your answer**, and it is more reliable than any comparison written by someone whose house is not yours.

Then do the two things that matter more than the choice: put your household into its memory (family size, ages, the food rules, the schedule shape, first names only), and put it on your home screen already signed in, so the eleven-minute window is not spent logging in.

The privacy line

Whichever you choose: first names only, no school names, no employer, no addresses, no account numbers. Crop before you upload. "My ten year old" and "the Tuesday activity" do every job a real name would do.

The part nobody tells you

You will get better answers from a worse tool that knows your house than from a better tool that does not. That is why the comparison articles feel useless: they benchmark the engine, and the thing that changes your Tuesday is context. Pick one. Feed it your house. Stop reading comparisons.