

If you've been exploring OpenAI's ChatGPT offerings, you've likely come across both the free tier (ChatGPT Free or "Go") and the paid upgrade known as ChatGPT Plus. For \$20/month (U.S. web list price), the Plus plan unlocks a range of features that significantly enhance your AI experience. But what exactly differentiates Plus from Go, especially when it comes to advanced tools like Agent mode, Codex, Canvas, Tasks, and the deep research capabilities tied to the GPT 5.6 family access?

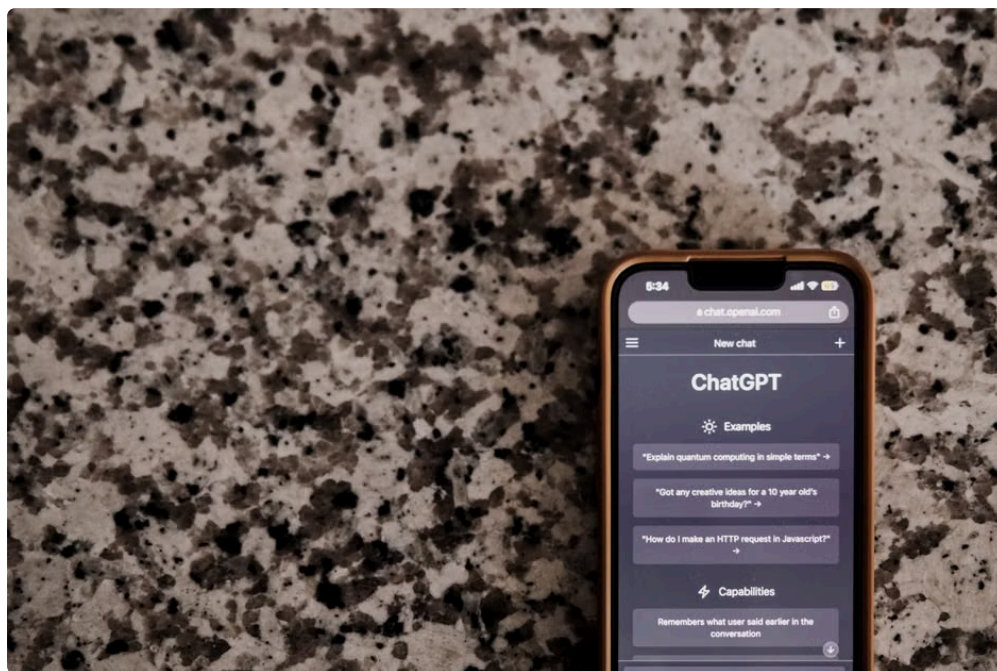
In this comprehensive breakdown, we will not only outline which advanced tools and modes come exclusively with ChatGPT Plus but also dive into some crucial practical considerations: price differences based on platform (web checkout versus iOS and Android), how VAT/GST can affect your real subscription cost, and the trial realities including multiple onboarding routes and offer-based variations.

Before we start, my perennial reminder: **always open your checkout page on two devices** — one desktop and one mobile — to double-check pricing details and subscription terms before you hit "subscribe." This practice helps avoid nasty surprises, like hidden tax or auto-renew nuances that often pop up in mobile app subscriptions.

ChatGPT Plus vs ChatGPT Go: Core Feature Differences

Starting with the basics, ChatGPT Free (Go) offers a solid basis for chatbot interaction but lacks some of the most powerful capabilities found in Plus. Here is a feature comparison highlighting the Plus-exclusive elements:

Feature ChatGPT Free (Go) ChatGPT Plus (\$20/mo U.S. web list price) Model Access



Includes GPT 4 and GPT 3.5 access	Limited to GPT-3.5 (basic GPT family)	Access to GPT 4 and GPT 5.6 family (latest enhanced models)
Deep Research	Plus Only	Advanced contextual understanding and multi-step reasoning
Not included	Included	Agent Mode
Unavailable	Integrated	— allows the AI to function autonomously using external tools
Codex (Code Generation + Debugging)	Basic code completion with GPT-3.5	Enhanced Codex integration for advanced code writing and programming support
Canvas (Visual Design + Mind Mapping)	Not included	Included — powerful visual workspace to complement conversations
Tasks (Project & Workflow Management)	Unavailable	Available — manage AI-assigned tasks and reminders natively

The enhanced capabilities of Plus are reinforced by latest advances in the **GPT 5.6 family access**, which underlies the sophisticated features like **deep research plus only** support and Agent mode autonomy.

Why Does Access to Deep Research Matter?

“Deep research plus only” is not just marketing jargon; it represents a substantial upgrade in AI reasoning ability. While ChatGPT Free offers great prompt-driven assistance, Plus users enjoy access to a model that can parse complex documents, perform multi-step reasoning, and even reference up-to-the-minute knowledge when connected with external plugins and Agent mode.

- **Enhanced Comprehension:** Improved ability to handle nuanced queries and contextual follow-ups.
- **Autonomous Agents:** ChatGPT Plus can independently perform tasks through Agent mode, like browsing or interacting with tools.
- **Improved Developer Tools:** Codex functionality allows software developers to get advanced code completions and testing.

Price Comparison: Web Checkout vs iOS vs Android

One common headache with ChatGPT Plus subscriptions is price inconsistency, depending on where you subscribe. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Web Checkout:** The U.S. list price is \$20/month, as openly published by OpenAI on their website. However, this is usually exclusive of VAT or GST, which varies by country.
2. **iOS App:** Prices here often include Apple's 30% commission, causing the subscription to cost slightly more. Additionally, Apple applies VAT/GST as required, making the final price different depending on your tax jurisdiction.
3. **Android Play Store:** Usually more aligned with web pricing but can differ due to Google's fees and local taxes.

Before subscribing, compare prices on the OpenAI web checkout flow and both app stores. My “auto-renew gotcha” tip: understand that canceling a subscription on mobile apps sometimes requires managing it through that specific app store instead of the OpenAI portal.

Platform	List Price	VAT/GST Inclusion	Notes
OpenAI Web Checkout	\$20/month	Not included	added at checkout based on location
iOS App Store	\$21–25/month (varies)	Cleanest price, easier cancellations directly via OpenAI	Included (Apple applies)
Google Play Store (Android)	Approximately \$20–22/month	Includes Apple's fees; price varies by region and VAT	Tax included depending on region

No Annual Plus Plan: Why That Matters

Unlike many SaaS products, OpenAI currently does not offer an annual payment plan for ChatGPT Plus. This is [ChatGPT plus](#) important for several reasons:

- **Monthly Flexibility:** You can cancel anytime without being locked into long-term billing, which is great if your needs change.
- **Lack of Discounted Rates:** No upfront annual discount means the effective monthly cost is higher compared to services offering upfront savings.
- **Trial and Offer Sensitivity:** Since offers are all month-to-month based, renewal reminders and price changes need to be carefully tracked.

My advice: always **set a calendar reminder 24 hours before any free trial ends to avoid unexpected charges**. OpenAI has at least six different trial and onboarding routes depending on region, invite status, or

promotions (more on that below). These routes are all offer-based and do not guarantee a universal “free trial” button.

The Trial Reality: Six Routes, All Offer-Based

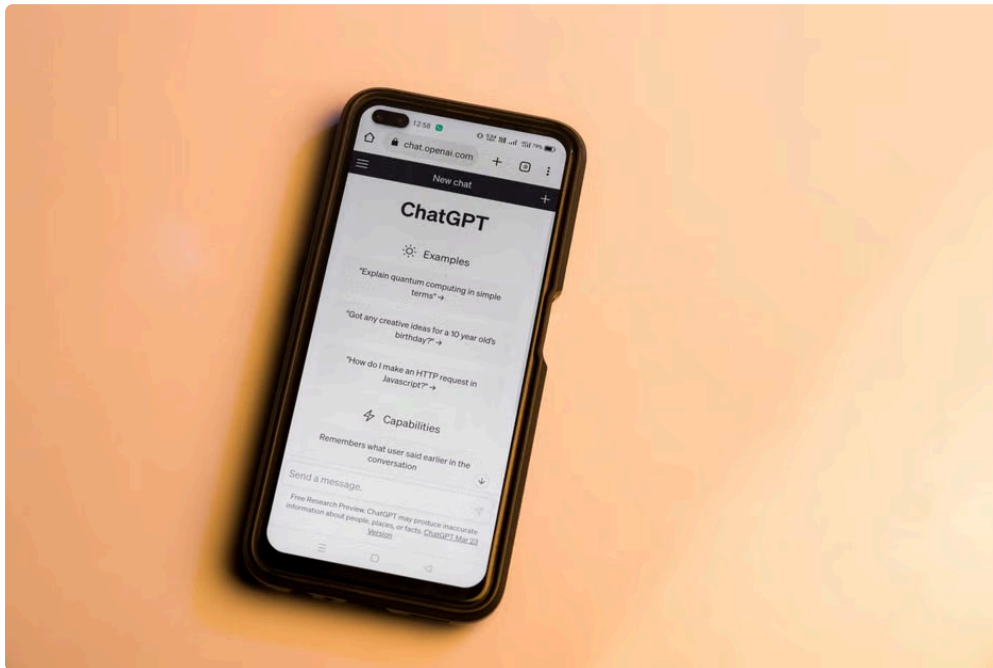
Contrary to popular belief, ChatGPT Plus does not have a universal free trial. Instead, there are at least six distinct onboarding routes for trying Plus features, each shaped by regional regulations, user segmentation, and promotional periods. Some common routes include:

1. **Direct Paid Subscription:** No trial; pay upfront for Plus benefits.
2. **Limited-Time Free Trial:** Usually 3–7 days, granted selectively based on user behavior or invitations.
3. **Promotional Offers:** Discounts or extended trial periods for specific user groups or partners.
4. **Educational or Enterprise Access:** Special plans or trials available through organizations.
5. **App Store Trials:** Sometimes Apple or Google offers trial variants through their platforms.
6. **Freemium Upgrades:** Occasional temporary unlocks of Plus features during specific events.

This diversity in trial offers means you need to **double-check the subscription terms and expiration dates** before committing. And, again, setting a *calendar reminder 24 hours before your trial ends* can save you from unwanted auto-renew charges.

Summary and Subscription Tips

To wrap up: ChatGPT Plus unlocks transformative features unavailable in ChatGPT Free, including:



- **Agent mode** — autonomous AI interactions
- **Codex** — powerful coding assistant functionality
- **Canvas** — visual design and mind-mapping workspace
- **Tasks** — integrated project and workflow management
- **Deep research capabilities** enabled by GPT 5.6 family access

Pricing is straightforward on the U.S. web, starting at \$20/month, but in reality, total cost varies by VAT/GST, platform fees, and your regional tax environment.

There's no annual plan, so it's month-to-month for now. And the "free trial" you hope for may come with strings attached through any of six potential offer-based routes, none of which are universally guaranteed.

Final Checklist Before Subscribing to ChatGPT Plus

1. Open the subscription page on both desktop and mobile to compare prices and tax inclusion.
2. Confirm whether your session includes any promotional trial or discount offers, and note their expiration.
3. Set a *calendar reminder 24 hours before trial or subscription renews* to avoid surprise charges.
4. Review cancellation instructions carefully — mobile app store subscriptions often require cancellation through that specific store.
5. Consider if monthly billing fits your usage patterns or if you want to wait for potential annual plan offers in the future.

With these insights, you can confidently choose whether ChatGPT Plus's rich toolkit — from Agent mode to Tasks — is worth stepping up from ChatGPT Free. OpenAI's rapidly evolving tech and pricing landscape means staying alert pays off.

Happy AI exploring!