

Chat or Work: which one do you open?

ChatGPT Work was released on July 9, 2026. This resource is designed to help you understand when to use Chat vs. Work. Chat already does far more than answer questions; Work adds a few capabilities that matter when a task runs across your files, your systems, and the people you share results with.

✦ What Chat can already do Capabilities people often forget about

🔍 Web research	🔔 Scheduled reminders
📄 Deep research reports	🔗 Multi-step reasoning
📁 File analysis	🌐 Agentic website tasks
🖼️ Image generation	✍️ Writing and editing
📎 Downloadable documents	💻 Coding
📊 Spreadsheets	💡 Brainstorming
🖥️ Presentations	📁 Projects that keep context
📈 Charts and analysis	🗣️ Voice conversations
🔗 Connected apps and actions	🔧 Reusable skills

📖 **Work mode does not allow you to save managed memories.** Managed memory belongs to Chat only. If you want ChatGPT to remember a preference, a style, or a standing instruction, save it in Chat.

✦ Where Work stands apart Three differences, not a different product

🔗 Sites

CHAT

You get a document, a file, or a canvas you then have to put somewhere.

WORK

Builds and publishes a shareable site in place: a live page for a team resource, a summary, or an internal reference.

🖥️ Built-in browser control

CHAT

Reads and searches the web, then hands the steps back to you.

WORK

Drives a browser itself, navigating, clicking, and filling forms through a multi-step task while you watch.

📁 Direct access to local folders

CHAT

Upload files manually. Limited to what you uploaded.

WORK

Can be pointed at an entire folder on your computer, and reads hundreds of files without manual uploading.

Repositories

Documentation

Research collections

Project folders