

BOOK 02 • WORKFLOW DIRECTORY

FREE AI TOOLS GUIDE

*Tested, Ranked, and Grouped Across 8 Essential
Workflow Categories*

CIPHER AI WORKFLOW DIRECTORY

EXPANDED 2026 EDITION • NO CREDIT CARD REQUIRED

FREE AI TOOLS • EXPANDED 2026 EDITION

Free AI tools you can *use today*.

Tested, ranked, and grouped across 8 essential workflow categories — skip the hype and find the best free tier instantly.

100% Genuine Free Tiers (No Credit Card Needed)

Includes limits, caps, and best use-cases for writing, research, coding, audio, video, automation, and design.

THE CORE WORKFLOW

The Free Starter Stack

Three core tools that cover 90% of daily productivity without spending a dime.

★ WRITING & CODE

Claude

Drafts & Analysis

The cleanest writer and refactor tool — great for rewrites, outlines, and code review.

★ LIVE RESEARCH

Perplexity

Cited Answers

Real-time search with inline sources so you can verify facts on the fly.

★ ALL-ROUNDER

Gemini

Multimodal + Ecosystem

Text, images, and workspace integration connected directly to Google Workspace.

CATEGORY 01

Chat & AI Assistants

#1 Claude

Best Writing

Top choice for natural prose, long-document summarization, artifacts, and coding help.

FREE TIER: Sonnet model (~15–40 messages per 5-hour window).

#2 ChatGPT

Most Features

Voice mode, image analysis, web browsing, and custom GPTs in one hub.

FREE TIER: Standard access on GPT-5 family with rolling rate caps.

#3 Gemini

Google Workspace

Direct access to Google Drive, Docs, YouTube, and image creation.

FREE TIER: ~30 daily prompts plus basic video/audio multimodal features.

CATEGORY 02 & 03

Research, Coding & Development

#1 NotebookLM

Document Study

Grounded strictly in your uploaded PDFs, notes, and links. Creates audio podcasts from docs.

FREE TIER: Fully free (up to 100 notebooks with 50 sources each).

#2 Cursor / VS Code AI

Coding Assistant

AI-powered code editor with inline completion, terminal troubleshooting, and refactoring.

FREE TIER: Free hobby plan with monthly AI completion credits.

CATEGORY 04 & 05

Image, Video & Audio Creation

#1 Ideogram & Gemini Image

Images & Text

Ideogram handles legible text on logos/posters; Gemini generates fast photorealistic scenes.

FREE TIER: Daily free credit refills on both platforms.

#2 ElevenLabs & Suno

Voice & Music

ElevenLabs provides human-grade voiceovers; Suno generates full 2-minute songs with vocals.

FREE TIER: 10,000 characters/mo (ElevenLabs) & 50 credits/day (Suno).

CATEGORY 06 & 07

Workflow Automation & Productivity

#1 n8n (Self-Hosted) / Make

Automation

Connect webhooks, social media distribution, LLM APIs, and spreadsheets automatically.

FREE TIER: 100% free self-hosted community edition or 1,000 free monthly ops on Make.

#2 Otter.ai / Whisper

Transcription

Instant meeting transcripts and local offline audio-to-text conversion.

FREE TIER: 300 monthly transcription minutes or free local open-source Whisper models.

RULEBOOK

4 Golden Rules for Free AI Tiers

- Watch the reset cycle:** Some limits reset hourly (Claude), daily (Gemini/Suno), or monthly (ElevenLabs).
- Self-host when possible:** Tools like n8n and local Whisper models remove cloud limits entirely.
- Check commercial rights:** Verify whether free outputs allow monetization (e.g., Suno free is non-commercial).
- Combine niche tools:** Use Perplexity for research, Claude for drafting, and Ideogram for cover graphics.

"Mastering 3 free tools thoroughly will yield better results than juggling 20 paid subscriptions."

Build your core workflow first — upgrade only when a specific quota becomes your bottleneck.

Go Deeper with Cipher AI

cipherwithmalik.com

- **YouTube Channel:** Step-by-step AI workflows & tool reviews
- **Free Prompt Library:** Tested prompts for text, image, and code
- **Automation Blueprints:** Free n8n & Python automation scripts

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