Claude AI Pricing FAQ: Complete 2026 Answers

Edition of November 13, 2026 — facts verified November 13, 2026. Current edition always at https://tygartmedia.com/claude-pricing-faq-complete-2026/.

Direct Answer (November 13, 2026): Consumer plans span Free ($0), Pro ($20/mo or $17/mo annual), Max ($100/mo, 5x Pro + $100/mo API credits), and Ultra ($200/mo, formerly Max 20x — 10x Pro weekly, no 5-hour limit for verified accounts + $200/mo API credits). Team seats run $20/$25 Standard and $100/$125 Premium (5x Standard capacity, 2–150 seats, up to $500/mo pooled API credits); Enterprise starts at $20/seat/mo annual (20-seat min) plus API rates. Current API rates: Fable 5.2 $8/$40, Opus 5.5 $4/$20, Sonnet 5.5 $2/$10, Haiku 5.5 $0.10/$0.50 (≤100K) or $0.50/$2.50 (>100K).

Updated October 28, 2026: Made infographic diagrams clickable to open full-size images.

Last refreshed: October 28, 2026 (Pacific)

Tygart Media · Claude Pricing Reference

Updated November 13, 2026 · All prices verified from Anthropic's official pricing page · Model strings current

Subscription vs. API. Free vs. Pro vs. Max. Managed Agents on top. What actually changed in May 2026. The answers without the marketing layer.

Covers subscription plans, API token rates, Managed Agents pricing, Claude Security, and Team vs Enterprise tiers. Full pricing page: Claude AI Pricing — All Plans

Plan Pricing

Plan pricing questions.

What does each Claude plan cost?

Plan	Price	Claude Code	Best For
Free	$0	■	Casual / evaluation use
Pro	$20/mo	■	Individual daily power use
Max	$100/mo	■	5× Pro usage + $100/mo API credits
Ultra *(formerly Max 20×)*	$200/mo	■	10× Pro weekly usage, no 5h limit (verified accounts) + $200/mo API credits
Team Standard	$20/seat/mo (annual) · $25 monthly	■	Shared team access (2–150 seats)
Team Premium	$100/seat/mo (annual) · $125 monthly	■	5× Standard seat usage + coding
Enterprise	$20/seat + usage at API rates	■	Large orgs, custom limits, SSO

All subscription prices are per-user per-month. Annual billing locks in the lower rate.

What's the difference between Pro and Max?

Same models, same Claude Code access. Max gives you more usage within the 5-hour rolling window — 5× Pro's usage on Max ($100/mo), while Ultra ($200/mo, replacing Max 20×) gives 10× Pro weekly usage with no 5-hour limit for verified accounts. If you regularly hit Pro's limits mid-session, Max is the upgrade. If you haven't hit limits on Pro, you don't need Max.

How do usage pools and API credits differ across Pro, Max, Ultra, and Team?

Verified November 13, 2026

Pro ($20/mo) includes $0 API credits; Max ($100/mo) adds $100/mo; Ultra ($200/mo) adds $200/mo; Team includes up to $500/mo pooled.

Higher paid plans expand both interactive usage capacity and bundled API credits. Before upgrading solely for throughput, check Settings > Usage on your current tier and confirm whether Ultra ($200/mo, replacing Max 20×) or Team Premium (5× Standard seat usage) matches your workload.

API Pricing

API pricing questions.

How does API pricing work?

API pricing is pay-per-token — you pay for what you use, no subscription required. Rates as of October 2026 (verified from Anthropic's official models page):

Model	API String	Input / MTok	Output / MTok
Claude Fable 5.2	`claude-fable-5-2`	$8	$40
Claude Opus 5.5	`claude-opus-5-5`	$4	$20
Claude Sonnet 5.5	`claude-sonnet-5-5`	$2	$10
Claude Haiku 5.5 (≤100K / >100K)	`claude-haiku-5-5`	$0.10 / $0.50	$0.50 / $2.50
Claude Fable 5.1 *(legacy)*	`claude-fable-5-1`	$10	$50
Claude Haiku 4.5 *(legacy — 200K)*	`claude-haiku-4-5-20251001`	$1	$5
Claude Opus 4.8 *(legacy — still listed)*	`claude-opus-4-8`	$5	$25
Claude Sonnet 4.6 *(legacy — still listed)*	`claude-sonnet-4-6`	$3	$15

Batch API discounts, prompt caching rates, and extended thinking costs apply on top — see Anthropic's full pricing page for those specifics.

Is subscription or API cheaper for my use case?

Subscription wins for consistent daily use (claude.ai interface, Claude Code). API wins for variable-volume programmatic use and batch workloads. The breakeven point: if you're using Claude heavily enough to hit Pro's limits even weekly, you're likely consuming more than $20/month in equivalent API tokens. For batch processing at scale, the Batch API with its discount rate is almost always the most cost-efficient path.

What's the real cost of Opus 4.8 vs Sonnet 4.6?

List price: Opus 4.8 *(legacy — still listed)* is $5/$25 per MTok input/output vs Sonnet 4.6 *(legacy — still listed)*'s $3/$15 — roughly 1.67× more expensive at list. However, Opus 4.8 *(legacy — still listed)*'s tokenizer produces approximately 1.46× more tokens per task than Sonnet 4.6 *(legacy — still listed)* on typical workloads, meaning real-world Opus 4.8 *(legacy — still listed)* costs can run meaningfully higher than the list price ratio implies. For most production API workloads, Sonnet 4.6 *(legacy — still listed)* is the right default. Use Opus 4.8 *(legacy — still listed)* when the task genuinely requires maximum reasoning and cost is secondary.

Lineup currency (Nov 13, 2026): Current API list: Fable 5.2 $8/$40, Opus 5.5 $4/$20, Sonnet 5.5 $2/$10, Haiku 5.5 $0.10/$0.50 (≤100K) or $0.50/$2.50 (>100K) — all 1M context / 128K max output. Legacy: Fable 5.1 $10/$50, Opus 4.8 $5/$25, Sonnet 4.6 $3/$15, Haiku 4.5 $1/$5 (200K).

Managed Agents Pricing

Managed agents pricing questions.

What does Claude Managed Agents cost?

Two charges: standard API token rates for whatever model you use, plus **$0.08 per session-hour of active runtime**. That's the complete formula — no other managed infrastructure fee on top.

A session-hour is one hour of active session status. Billing is metered to the millisecond. Idle time, time waiting for your input, and time waiting for tool confirmations do not accrue charges.

Maximum theoretical monthly runtime cost (24/7 agent): 24 hrs × $0.08 × 30 days = $57.60/month. In practice, token costs become the dominant cost driver well before you approach this ceiling.

Full breakdown: Claude Managed Agents Complete Pricing Reference

What does web search cost inside a Managed Agents session?

$10 per 1,000 searches ($0.01 per search), billed separately from session runtime and token costs. Same rate as web search via the standard API.

What does Dreaming cost?

Dreams are billed at standard API token rates for the model you select; cost scales roughly linearly with the number and length of input sessions. Dreaming is a research preview — request access to try it (status as of October 2026). Docs: platform.claude.com/docs/en/managed-agents/dreams

Specialty Model Pricing

What does Claude Mythos Preview cost?

$25 per million input tokens, $125 per million output tokens. Invitation-only through Project Glasswing — no self-serve access. Contact Anthropic at anthropic.com/glasswing. Claude Mythos is not available through any subscription tier or standard API access.

Is Claude Security Beta included in my plan?

Claude Security Beta is available to all Enterprise customers during the beta period — included as part of Enterprise, no separate per-scan fee. Claude Security runs on frontier models managed by Anthropic (up to Fable 5.2 / Opus 5.5 class) — confirm the current model in Anthropic's Claude Security docs. It is included as part of Enterprise during the beta, no separate per-scan fee. For Enterprise pricing including Claude Security, contact Anthropic sales. Standard API users do not have access during beta.

Lineup currency (Nov 13, 2026): Current API list: Fable 5.2 $8/$40, Opus 5.5 $4/$20, Sonnet 5.5 $2/$10, Haiku 5.5 $0.10/$0.50 (≤100K) or $0.50/$2.50 (>100K) — all 1M context / 128K max output. Legacy: Fable 5.1 $10/$50, Opus 4.8 $5/$25, Sonnet 4.6 $3/$15, Haiku 4.5 $1/$5 (200K).

Related on Tygart Media: how to use Claude · Anthropic API key.

Primary & Reference Links Cited on This Page

- Anthropic's official models page — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/models/overview`
- Anthropic's full pricing page — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/pricing`
- platform.claude.com/docs/en/managed-agents/dreams — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/managed-agents/dreams`
- anthropic.com/glasswing — `https://anthropic.com/glasswing`
- Tygart Media: Claude AI Pricing — All Plans
- Tygart Media: https://tygartmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/claude-tiers-at-a-glance-board-1.jpg
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