# Grok vs Claude: Head-to-Head AI Model Comparison (2026)

*Edition of November 13, 2026 — facts verified November 13, 2026. Current edition always at https://tygartmedia.com/grok-vs-claude/.*

**Direct Answer (November 13, 2026):** Current Anthropic models — **Fable 5.2 ($8/$40)**, **Opus 5.5 ($4/$20)**, **Sonnet 5.5 ($2/$10)**, and **Haiku 5.5 ($0.10/$0.50 ≤100K)** — win on long-horizon coding (Claude Code), writing consistency, 1M context, and enterprise compliance, while xAI's Grok wins on native real-time X data and lower flagship per-token list rates (Grok 4.7 vs. Opus 5.5/Fable 5.2). See our updated Grok vs Claude pricing breakdown.

*Last refreshed: November 13, 2026*

Model Accuracy Note — Updated November 13, 2026

**Current API lineup (verified Nov 13, 2026 — Anthropic models overview & pricing): Fable 5.2 ($8/$40)**, **Opus 5.5 ($4/$20)**, **Sonnet 5.5 ($2/$10)**, and **Haiku 5.5 ($0.10/$0.50 ≤100K)** — all 1M context / 128K output. Legacy models (Fable 5.1 $10/$50, Opus 4.8 $5/$25, Sonnet 4.6 $3/$15, Haiku 4.5 $1/$5) appear below only in historical spring-2026 benchmark comparisons. See current model tracker →

Claude AI · Fitted Claude

Grok is xAI's AI assistant, built by Elon Musk's company and deeply integrated with the X (formerly Twitter) platform. Claude is Anthropic's AI, built with a focus on safety and reasoning. They're both frontier models — but they come from fundamentally different companies with different philosophies and different strengths. Here's where each one wins.

## Grok vs Claude: Direct Comparison

*Grok vs Claude — direct comparison.*

| Capability | Grok 4 / 4.1 | Claude Sonnet 4.6 / Opus 4.6 | Edge |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Real-time X/Twitter data** | ■ Native | Via web search | Grok |
| **Writing quality** | Good | ■ Stronger | Claude |
| **SWE-bench (coding)** | ~75% (Grok 4 Fast) | 80.8% (Opus 4.6) | Claude Opus 4.7 |
| **Context window** | ~128K tokens | 1M tokens (Sonnet/Opus) | Claude |
| **API pricing (input)** | ~$2/M (Grok 4.1 Fast) | Current: $0.10/M (Haiku 5.5), $2/M (Sonnet 5.5), $4/M (Opus 5.5), $8/M (Fable 5.2) (legacy 4.6/4.8: $3/M–$5/M) | Grok (cheaper) |
| **Consumer subscription** | $22/mo (X Premium+) | $20/mo (Claude Pro) | Claude (slightly cheaper) |
| **Safety / refusal calibration** | Less restrictive | ■ Constitutional AI | Depends on use case |
| **Enterprise / compliance** | Limited | ■ SSO, audit logs, BAA | Claude |
| **Agentic coding tool** | Limited | ■ Claude Code | Claude |

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## What Grok Does Better

*What Grok does better.*

**Real-time X data.** Grok's native integration with X (Twitter) is a genuine differentiator — it can surface trending discussions, current sentiment, and breaking information from the platform in real time. If your work involves monitoring X, tracking social trends, or understanding current public discourse, this is an advantage no other model matches natively.

**Flagship vs. xAI token rates.** While Claude **Haiku 5.5 ($0.10/$0.50 ≤100K)** undercuts xAI at the budget tier, xAI's Grok models undercut Claude Opus 5.5 ($4/$20) and Fable 5.2 ($8/$40) on flagship list pricing.

**Less restrictive outputs.** Grok is designed to be less filtered than Claude. For users who find Claude's safety calibration frustrating on specific use cases, Grok may produce responses Claude declines. Whether this is an advantage depends entirely on what you're trying to do.

## What Claude Does Better

*What Claude does better.*

**Context window.** Claude Sonnet 4.6 and Opus 4.6 both have 1 million token context windows — roughly 8x Grok's current context capacity. For long-document analysis, extended coding sessions, or large codebase comprehension, this is a meaningful operational difference.

**Writing quality and instruction-following.** On professional writing tasks — analysis, strategy documents, legal review, editorial content — Claude consistently produces more natural, constraint-adherent output. This is where Claude's reputation was built and it remains a genuine advantage.

**Coding benchmarks.** Claude Opus 4.7 scores 80.8% on SWE-bench Verified (real-world software engineering tasks), with Sonnet 4.6 close behind at 79.6%. Grok 4 is competitive but Claude's overall coding ecosystem — especially Claude Code — gives it a practical advantage for development workflows.

**Enterprise features.** Claude Enterprise offers SSO, audit logs, HIPAA BAA, configurable usage policies, and data processing agreements. Grok's enterprise offering is less mature — meaningful for organizations with compliance requirements.

## The User Base Difference

Grok's primary audience is X users — people already on the platform who get Grok access as part of X Premium+. Claude's primary audience is knowledge workers, developers, and enterprises who seek out a capable AI model. These different starting points shape each model's design priorities and where each company invests in improvements.

For the broader comparison of Claude against all major AI models, see Claude Models Explained and Claude vs ChatGPT: The Honest 2026 Comparison.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is Grok better than Claude?

For real-time X/Twitter data and less filtered outputs — yes. For writing quality, long-context work, coding (via Claude Code), and enterprise compliance — Claude is stronger. Neither is definitively better; they have different strengths for different workflows.

### What is Grok's advantage over Claude?

Grok's clearest advantage is real-time X/Twitter data integration — it can access and analyze current X activity natively. Grok 4.1 Fast also runs cheaper per token than Claude Sonnet 4.6 at the API level, making it attractive for cost-sensitive high-volume workloads.

### Is Grok free to use?

Grok has a free tier with limited access. Full Grok access requires X Premium+ ($22/month). Claude has a free tier with daily limits; Claude Pro is $20/month. Both have similar consumer price points with different bundling — Grok is tied to X, Claude is a standalone subscription.

Need this set up for your team?

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## Primary & Reference Links Cited on This Page

- Anthropic models overview — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/models/overview`
- pricing — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/pricing`
- Tygart Media: current model tracker →
- Tygart Media: Grok vs Claude pricing breakdown
- Tygart Media: Talk to us →
- Tygart Media: Claude Models Explained
- Tygart Media: Claude vs ChatGPT: The Honest 2026 Comparison