



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

GEMINI 4 ARGON

WHAT'S NEW & HOW TO USE IT

Features, access, pricing and 8 practical prompts

2026 PRACTICAL GUIDE | RESEARCHED OCTOBER 16

CONTENTS

03	The release snapshot
04	Where you can use it
05	The capability map
06	Your first useful task
07	A better prompt brief
08	Research with sources
09	Read PDFs with purpose
10	Turn a brief into a draft
11	Coding with checkpoints
12	Understand a video
13	Choose the thinking level
14	Context and long outputs
15	The API price snapshot
16	Check before you publish
17	Pick the right workflow
18	Five mistakes to avoid
19	A seven-day trial plan
20	Sources and editorial note



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THE RELEASE SNAPSHOT

A new model, a wider rollout

Google announced wider access to Gemini 4 Argon on October 13, 2026. Its stated focus is demanding software engineering, professional knowledge work and scientific reasoning. This guide turns that launch into practical tasks you can try. Product access and API limits are treated separately throughout.

SEPTEMBER 30	Initial announcement and a limited defender rollout.
OCTOBER 13	Broader access across Google's announced product routes.
OCTOBER 16	This independent guide's research snapshot.

Start with one task whose output you can check.



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WHERE YOU CAN USE IT

Choose the product before choosing the task

GEMINI APP

Google's launch says AI Pro and Ultra subscribers can access Argon. Check your account's current model choices and eligibility.

DEVELOPER API

Use the paid Gemini API route and model ID gemini-4-argon. API billing has its own rates and limits.

ANTIGRAVITY

The launch identifies Google AI Ultra access for the coding product. Product and account requirements can differ.

An app subscription and API usage are separate access routes.



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THE CAPABILITY MAP

Read the model specification carefully

INPUT	Text, images, video, audio and PDF.
OUTPUT	Text, including generated code.
TOOLS	Search grounding, code execution and function calling are supported.
BOUNDARY	Native image generation, audio generation and Live API are not supported by this model.

A model's abilities and an app's features can differ.



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YOUR FIRST USEFUL TASK

Give the model a small job with a clear finish

Open the Gemini app with an eligible account and check that Argon is the selected model. Choose a brief you understand well enough to review. Our suggested first task is to turn a short, non-sensitive project note into a usable action plan. Decide what a complete answer should contain before you submit it.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Using only the project note below, create a five-step action plan. For each step, name the expected output and one dependency. List missing information separately. Keep the plan under 250 words. Project note: [paste your note].

Review completeness, accuracy and usefulness.



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A BETTER PROMPT BRIEF

Goal, evidence, constraints and a useful format

Google's prompt guidance emphasises clear instructions, context and response format. A practical brief tells the model what to produce, what material to rely on and how to handle gaps. The template below is an original starting point. Replace the brackets with real details and revise it after inspecting the first answer.

REUSABLE PROMPT TEMPLATE

Goal: [specific deliverable]. Audience: [reader]. Evidence: [supplied material or permitted sources]. Constraints: [length, scope and exclusions]. Return: [sections or table columns]. Mark assumptions and unresolved questions. Before finishing, check the answer against these requirements.

A clear definition of done makes review easier.



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RESEARCH WITH SOURCES

Make claims easy to trace

In the API, Google Search grounding connects Gemini with current web material and can return source metadata. It must be configured in the tool setup. Asking for links alone does not turn a response into verified research. Our recommended output pairs each important claim with a source and date, then leaves unsupported points unresolved.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Research [topic] for [audience]. Use current primary sources where available. Return a table: claim, source URL, publication date and limitation. Separate confirmed facts from your interpretation. If browsing is unavailable, say so and work only from the sources I provide.

Open the sources behind the claims you plan to publish.



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READ PDFS WITH PURPOSE

Ask for evidence, not just a fluent summary

Gemini Apps supports file analysis, subject to file and account limits. Start with a readable document and a narrow question. For a long report, request a structured extraction that you can compare with the original pages. Our suggested table includes a place for absent information so the model does not have to fill every cell.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Using the attached report, extract the five main findings. Return: finding, page or section, supporting evidence and caveat. Write 'not found' when a detail is absent. End with three questions the report leaves unanswered. Do not use outside information.

Check a sample of page references against the actual PDF.



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TURN A BRIEF INTO A DRAFT

Keep the source material visible

A useful writing task starts with an approved brief, a defined reader and a concrete format. Our suggested workflow asks for an outline first, then expands it after review. Keep factual material and editorial direction in separate blocks. That makes it easier to notice when an attractive sentence adds a claim the brief never supported.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Turn the approved brief below into a 600-word article outline for [audience]. For each section, list its purpose and the supplied facts it will use. Flag unsupported claims. Keep the tone [tone]. Wait for my reviewed outline before drafting the article. Brief: [text].

Judge the draft against the brief and its sources.



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CODING WITH CHECKPOINTS

Ask for a bounded change and evidence it works

Google positions Argon for complex software engineering. A practical way to evaluate it is a small change in a project you can test. State the desired behaviour, relevant files and constraints. Our task brief asks for a plan before edits and a report of checks actually run. Repository access and execution tools depend on the product setup.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

In this project, implement [small change]. First identify the relevant files and propose the smallest useful patch. Preserve [constraints]. After the agreed change, run the relevant existing checks if tools permit. Report changed behaviour, checks run and unresolved issues. Do not claim a test passed unless it ran.

Review the actual patch and observed test results.



UNDERSTAND A VIDEO

Use timestamps to make observations checkable

Argon's specification supports video input, and Google's video guide describes tasks such as summarising scenes and answering questions about clips. An editorial use is to build a rough scene log before reviewing the footage yourself. Treat a timestamped description as a draft observation. The model's video understanding does not mean it generates a finished video.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Analyse this clip and return a scene log with approximate timestamps, visible action and possible editorial use. Separate what is visible from what you infer. Mark uncertain dialogue instead of inventing a transcript. Suggest three short-form story angles, each tied to a specific moment.

Verify timing and descriptions against the original clip.



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CHOOSE THE THINKING LEVEL

An API control for effort and waiting time

The API exposes low, medium and high thinking levels. Medium is the documented default. More effort can consume more tokens and take longer; it is a setting to evaluate on your task.

LOW

Try for simpler requests where speed matters.

MEDIUM

Use as the starting point for a representative task.

HIGH

Test for harder reasoning or demanding code work.

Compare the answers before choosing the lowest adequate effort.



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CONTEXT AND LONG OUTPUTS

Understand what the large window actually covers

Argon's API uses a unified 1,048,576-token window shared by input, thinking and output. The standard synchronous output limit is 65,536 tokens; longer generation uses the documented background and continuation process. These are API specifications, not a promise that every app accepts an equally large file.

ONE SHARED WINDOW

Input + thinking + output must fit together.

LONG DECODE

Large output requires the appropriate API execution setup.

A PRACTICAL CHOICE

Ask for an outline, then generate the sections you need.

A larger window does not remove the need to check the answer.



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THE API PRICE SNAPSHOT

Standard paid-tier rates in USD per million tokens

TOKEN TYPE	THROUGH NOV 30	FROM DEC 1
INPUT	\$2.00	\$4.00
OUTPUT + THINKING	\$10.00	\$20.00
CACHED INPUT	\$0.10	\$0.20

Introductory rates apply through November 30, 2026. The next column starts December 1. Thinking tokens are included in output billing. This table covers standard API token rates; app subscriptions, tools, taxes and other billing modes are separate.

ILLUSTRATIVE TOKEN-COST CALCULATION

Illustrative calculation: 20,000 uncached input tokens + 5,000 billed output tokens cost \$0.09 at introductory standard rates, before other charges. The same token quantities at the listed December rates cost \$0.18.



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CHECK BEFORE YOU PUBLISH

Give verification its own pass

A clean answer can still contain an unsupported date, a weak citation or a calculation error. Our editorial review pass separates factual checking from rewriting. Start with the claims that matter most to the reader. Ask for uncertainties explicitly, then inspect the underlying evidence yourself. Source links and a polished tone are useful aids, not proof of correctness.

TRY THIS ORIGINAL PROMPT

Review this draft without rewriting it. List factual claims, dates, calculations and quotations that need checking. For each, identify the supplied evidence or mark 'needs source'. Distinguish an actual contradiction from a missing citation. Draft and source material: [paste both].

Keep the source that supports each published claim.



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PICK THE RIGHT WORKFLOW

An editorial decision guide

SHORT REWRITE	Give a tight brief and a short output target.
REPORT COMPARISON	Supply the files and require evidence references.
CURRENT RESEARCH	Use available search tools and inspect the sources.
CODE CHANGE	Bound the patch and review checks that actually ran.
LONG DOCUMENT	Review the outline before generating full sections.

Choose the workflow by the deliverable and how you will verify it.



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FIVE MISTAKES TO AVOID

Small choices that change the quality of a trial

VAGUE SUCCESS

Define the output and review criteria first.

TOO MUCH MATERIAL

Select the files relevant to your question.

MIXED PRODUCT LIMITS

Check the app or API route you actually use.

UNNECESSARY DATA

Review account privacy settings before uploading sensitive material.

UNREVIEWED OUTPUT

Inspect the claims and the final file before publishing.

These are editorial workflow suggestions, not a product guarantee.



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A SEVEN-DAY TRIAL PLAN

An original Digital World Pulse worksheet

DAY 1	Choose one repeatable task and record your usual result.
DAY 2	Run the same task with a clear prompt brief.
DAY 3	Compare completeness, errors and editing time.
DAY 4	Improve the brief using the mistakes you observed.
DAY 5	Try one document or source-based task.
DAY 6	Check privacy settings and actual usage costs.
DAY 7	Keep the workflow only if the reviewed result is useful.

Record what happened; improvement is something to measure.



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SOURCES & EDITORIAL NOTE

PRIMARY REFERENCE LINKS

- [1] Google - October 13 release and availability
- [2] Google - Argon in the Gemini app
- [3] Google AI for Developers - Argon model specifications
- [4] Google AI for Developers - What's new and thinking levels
- [5] Google AI for Developers - API pricing
- [6] Google AI for Developers - Prompt design strategies
- [7] Gemini Apps Help - Upload and analyze files
- [8] Google AI for Developers - Grounding with Google Search
- [9] Google AI for Developers - Video understanding
- [10] Gemini Apps Help - Privacy Hub
- [11] Google - September 30 initial announcement

The eleven titles above and numbered page references are clickable.

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

Researched October 16, 2026. Product details, eligibility and prices may change. Specifications and launch claims come from Google's sources; this guide is not an independent benchmark. Prompt templates and the trial plan are original editorial examples, with no guaranteed outcomes. AI-generated visuals are conceptual illustrations, not product screenshots. Independent Digital World Pulse publication; not affiliated with Google.

Check the linked product pages before paying or building a workflow.