PatGPT

What is Grok actually good for?

A no-fluff guide to Elon Musk's AI model: real-time X data, where it sits politically, the prompt formula that works, the new Grok Bot, and what it all costs.

Many of you have heard of Grok, Elon Musk's AI model from xAI, but what are the key use cases for it? Here's where it genuinely earns its place, and where it doesn't.

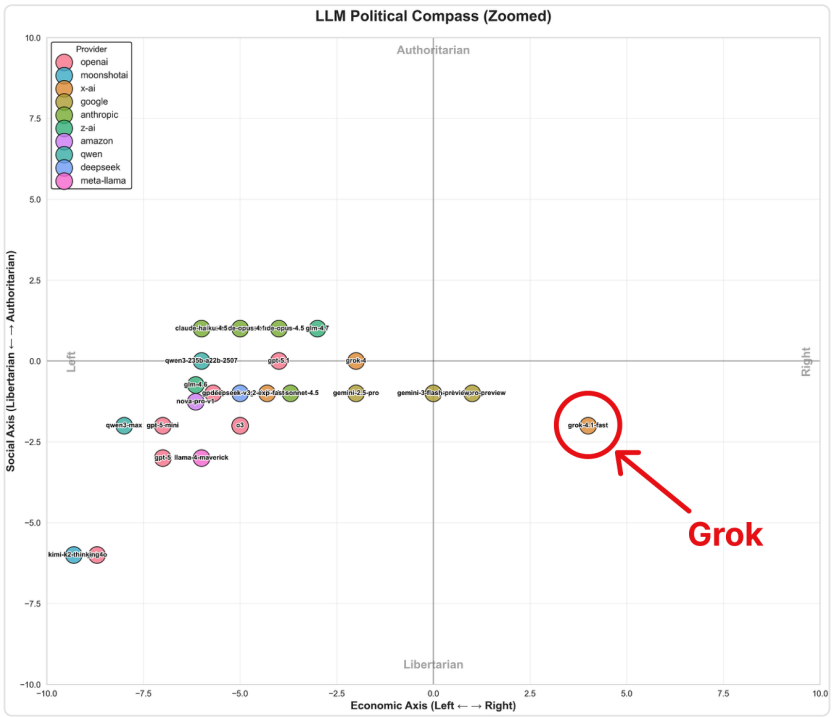
01 Real-time data from X

Grok's headline feature is its live access to X (formerly Twitter). It can read posts as they happen, so people use it to catch up on breaking news, see what's trending, get the gist of a viral thread, or gauge public sentiment on a topic, a stock or an event. This real-time search-and-summarise ability is one of its most popular features.

> **How I use it:** I love using Grok to get an overview of different stocks. It pulls together what news outlets and financial accounts on X are saying, which gives a quick read on market conditions and why a price is moving. Treat it as a sentiment snapshot, not financial advice. X chatter is noisy and often wrong.

02 Where Grok sits politically

Grok is also known for being more willing to engage with "edgy" political topics than most models. Here's a rough AI political compass showing where the major models land when put through the same test.



LLM political compass (zoomed). Results from a third-party compass-style test; treat positions as rough, as they shift between model versions and test methods.

Most models cluster in the economic-left / slightly libertarian quadrant. Grok 4.1 Fast is the clear outlier, sitting noticeably right of every other model tested. That fits its background: since Musk bought Twitter in 2022, the platform has loosened its content-moderation rules, and many

observers argue its overall tone has shifted rightward as a result. A model built alongside that platform and tuned to be less filtered landing further right isn't a huge surprise.

03 Image & video generation

Grok also includes a solid image and video generator, **Grok Imagine**, built into the app. Higher-resolution output and bigger limits come with the paid SuperGrok tiers.

04 The prompt structure that works best

Ask Grok how to prompt it and it suggests this formula:

Role + **Task** + **Context** + **Constraints** + **Output format**

EXAMPLE PROMPT

"Act as a blunt senior market analyst. Search recent X posts and news (last 7 days) about [company]. Give me: 3 key moves with dates, overall sentiment, 1–2 influential voices, and anything that looks like hype vs. reality. Keep it under 400 words, no fluff."

THE EXTRA TIP MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW

If you want Grok to go deep on something current or controversial (one of its best use cases), end your prompt with this phrase or a close variant:

ADD TO THE END

"Pull the raw signal, ignore the narrative layer."

In my testing, this nudges Grok toward primary sources, unfiltered X chatter and actual data rather than polished media framing or consensus summaries. Most people just say "be honest" or "no bias"; this is more precise and tends to surface the stuff that gets sanded down elsewhere. Try it on any hot topic and compare the answers.

05 Grok Bot: AI teammates that do the work

Launched in early beta on **11 August 2026**, Grok Bot is xAI's move from chatbot to "digital worker." Instead of prompting back and forth, you hand a Bot a job and it comes back with finished work.

- **Its own computer.** Bots run on a persistent cloud machine with a browser, file system and terminal, so work keeps going after you close your laptop.
- **Signs in to your tools.** It logs in and clicks through apps and websites the way you would, including platforms with no API or MCP integration.

- **Runs in parallel, 24/7.** Spin up several Bots (one on research, one on outreach, one on support tickets) and they can hand work off to each other.
- **Checks in only when needed.** Bots work end to end and come back when something needs your approval.
- **Scheduled routines.** Set recurring jobs that run on their own.

> **Watch out:** all your Bots share one machine, including its files and logins. xAI's own docs say not to treat separate Bots as a security boundary, so be careful which accounts you sign them in to.
>
> **Access:** included with SuperGrok Heavy, Cursor Ultra (US$200/mo) and Cursor Teams Premium. Enterprise is waitlist-only.

06 Cost breakdown

Plan	Price (USD/mo)	What you get
Free	**$0**	Limited Grok on X and grok.com
X Premium	**$8**	Basic Grok bundled with X features
SuperGrok Lite	**$10**	Standalone Grok, higher limits, lighter features
SuperGrok	**$30**	Main paid tier: latest models, DeepSearch, more Imagine
X Premium+	**$40**	Priority Grok plus ad-free X and creator perks
SuperGrok Heavy	**$300**	Grok 4 Heavy multi-agent mode, max limits, Grok Bot

Prices change often; check grok.com before subscribing. If you mainly want Grok rather than X itself, the standalone SuperGrok tiers are usually better value.

FOR BUILDERS: THE API

Grok 4.1 Fast is one of the cheapest capable models around at **$0.20 per million input tokens and $0.50 per million output**, with a 2-million-token context window. That makes it a strong pick for processing huge documents or running high-volume tasks cheaply. API usage is billed separately from any subscription.

The verdict

For raw performance, I still prefer Claude and ChatGPT. But Grok has a lane nobody else owns: **live X data**, a **less filtered** take on current events, and **dirt-cheap API pricing**. Since it comes bundled with X Premium, it's an appealing add-on if you're already on X, especially for real-time market and news sentiment. And if Grok Bot delivers on its promise, it could become far more than a side tool.

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