

M A V E R I C K A I

ASK CHATGPT TO UPGRADE YOUR FLIGHT TO BUSINESS CLASS

THREE PROMPTS, ONE CANVAS, AND A BROWSER THAT CHASES
THE SEAT FOR YOU

Most people are sitting on miles, points and card perks they have never pointed at one specific flight. This is the ten-minute version: ChatGPT maps every upgrade currency you own, builds you a Canvas of your options, then opens its browser and goes after the seat.

The three prompts from the video, expanded so they actually work

The Upgrade Power Canvas ChatGPT builds for your exact flight

Work mode and the browser: how ChatGPT logs in and chases the seat

The smart bid number (and what to do when your airline has no bidding)

Miles, certificates, bank points, card perks and cash offers, ranked

Bonus prompts: the 24-hour sweep, the points math, a multi-flight tracker

Mistakes that cost people the seat, plus a one-page cheat sheet

2026 Edition

You Have More Upgrade Power Than You Think

I tried this on a flight I have next month and it worked. Not because I found a secret, but because I finally asked one question the airline app never asks: what do I actually own that could move me up on this specific flight?

For most people the answer is: more than they think, spread across four or five places. Miles in one account. Bank points that transfer to that airline. A card that bumps you up the list. A cash offer that appears at check-in. Maybe a bidding window they never opened. Nobody adds it up, so nobody uses it.

ChatGPT adds it up. In Work mode you give it the airline and the confirmation code, it interviews you about your cards and points, and it hands back a ranked list of every path to the front cabin. Then it opens its browser, goes to the airline site and does the clicking.

WHAT AN UPGRADE CURRENCY IS

Anything that can be spent, applied or leaned on to move your seat forward. Airline miles. Upgrade certificates from elite status. Bank points that transfer into the airline's program. Card perks that raise your place on the upgrade list. The cash offer on your booking. A bid, if your airline runs upgrade auctions. Each one is a separate door, and ChatGPT checks them all.

The seven doors, at a glance

Currency	What it does	Confirms early?
Airline miles	Buy the upgrade on your existing ticket, usually with a cash copay. Priced per flight on the big US airlines now, so the number lives on your booking.	Often, if upgrade space is loaded. Otherwise you waitlist.
Upgrade certificates	Elite-status vouchers (United PlusPoints, Delta Global and Regional Upgrade Certificates, American systemwide upgrades).	Yes when space exists; otherwise waitlist near the top.
Transferable bank points	Chase, Amex, Capital One, Citi and Bilt points move into airline programs, usually 1:1, often instantly.	Only by feeding the miles path above.
Card perks	Airline co-brand cards can raise your priority on the complimentary list and reimburse a cash upgrade through travel credits.	No. They improve odds, they do not lock a seat.
Cash offer	The airline's own buy-up price, shown on the booking, at check-in and at the gate. It moves.	Yes, instantly.
Upgrade bid	You name a price, the airline decides 24 to 72 hours out. Common outside the US, rare on US carriers.	Only when the bid is accepted.
Elite status list	Free space-available upgrades processed in tier order, mostly day of departure.	No. Pure waitlist.

TIP

The whole method rests on one idea: check every door for one flight, not one door for every flight. That is what turns a pile of points into an actual seat.

Prompt 1: Map Everything You Own

Open ChatGPT, choose **Work** at the top, and paste this in. It interviews you first, then maps everything and builds the Canvas. Fill in the five brackets, and answer the interview in one message with your receipt open: fare class letter, flight number, and the most cash you'd pay for a confirmed seat.

PROMPT 1: THE UPGRADE AUDIT

```
I'm flying [AIRLINE], confirmation code [CODE], last
name [NAME], on [DATE] from [CITY] to [CITY]. I want
to upgrade this exact flight to business or first.
You can't see my booking; work from what I tell you.
Before you answer anything, interview me: ask
every question you need about my credit cards, the
miles and points I have (airline, bank, hotel), my
memberships and elite status, and what I paid and
the fare class if I know it. Ask all your questions
at once in one batch, and only the ones that matter.
Once I've answered, map out every upgrade currency I
own that could touch this flight: airline miles,
upgrade certificates, transferable bank points, card
perks and credits, cash upgrade offers, and upgrade
bidding if my airline does it. Use web search for
the current rules of my airline's program, and say
clearly when a price is an estimate.
Then build me a Canvas called My Upgrade Power: one
card per currency showing what I have, what it costs
for this flight, whether it confirms now or only
waitlists and by what deadline, and a plain-English
likelihood. Rank the paths best to worst and tell me
the single move you'd make first.
```

Why it's worded like that

You can't see my booking stops ChatGPT talking as if it looked up your reservation. It can't, yet. Everything comes from your answers, which is why the interview matters. **Last name** is in there because the airline site will ask for it in prompt 3.

Use web search for the current rules does the heavy lifting. United scrapped its fixed upgrade chart in late 2025 and now prices miles upgrades per flight. Delta prices them off the cash offer. Without search, ChatGPT will confidently quote a chart that no longer exists. And **build me a Canvas** is where this gets good: instead of a wall of text you get a page you can open, edit and come back to. Next chapter.

Reading Your Upgrade Power Canvas

When I ran this for a Delta flight from Atlanta to Los Angeles, ChatGPT came back with a Canvas of six cards, one per currency, ranked, with a box at the top called "The single move." Here is what each part means and how to read it.

What's on each card

Field	What it tells you
What you have	Your balance or perk, as you reported it.
Cost for this flight	Miles, cash or points needed. Marked ESTIMATE when ChatGPT couldn't see a live price.
Confirms or waitlists, and when	The big one. A confirmed path locks the seat today. A waitlist path is a hope with a deadline (Silver clears from 24 hours out).
Likelihood	Plain English: likely, coin flip, long shot, dead end. Built from cabin size, route, your status and timing.
How to do it	The exact place to click or the number to call, so you're not hunting.

What the test flight looked like

Silver Medallion, 62,000 SkyMiles, 95,000 Amex points, 40,000 Chase, a Delta Gold Amex and a \$289 main cabin fare, K class. The Canvas ranked it: the free Silver list first (already running, long odds on a hub-to-hub route), the cash upgrade offer on the booking second (the \$200 play, confirms instantly), miles through the same offer third (Delta pegs them near one cent each, so poor value), Amex only as a top-up you don't need. It flagged the Chase points as a dead end (no Delta transfer), the Gold Amex as no help for priority, and that Delta runs no bidding.

That last part matters. The video says "place the bid," and on the airlines that offer bidding that is exactly what happens. On American, Delta and United there is no bid to place, so the Canvas steers you to miles, cash offers and the list instead. Chapter 7 covers both worlds.

ASK FOR THE INTERACTIVE BITS

Canvas can hold a working page, not just text. Say: "Add a slider for what a mile is worth to me and a filter that shows only the paths that can confirm before departure." It rebuilds in seconds, and the Canvas stays in the sidebar so you can reopen it at the airport.

TIP

One rule from the Canvas that surprised people: partner miles can't upgrade another airline's ticket. Virgin Atlantic points book Delta seats, but they will not upgrade a ticket Delta sold you. If your bank points only transfer to partners, they feed a new booking, not an upgrade.

Prompt 2: Look At My Exact Flight

Stay in the same chat. The video's version is "check how empty the business cabin is and rank every pathway from free to cheapest." One honest fix: ChatGPT can't see a seat map from a chat. Live inventory lives behind your airline login. So this prompt makes it tell you exactly what reveals the cabin load, ranks the paths, and hands the looking to the browser in prompt 3.

PROMPT 2: THE PATHWAYS

```
Now look at my exact flight. You can't see the
cabin from here, so tell me exactly what on
[AIRLINE]'s site or the seat map would reveal how
empty [business/first] is and how to read it. Then
list every pathway to that cabin for THIS flight,
ranked from free to cheapest: the complimentary
upgrade list, same-day changes to a softer flight,
the cash and miles offers on the booking, any
certificates, bidding if my airline does it, and
cancel-and-rebuy. For each: cost, whether it
confirms or waitlists, the deadline, and my odds.
Update the Canvas with the ranking.
```

What comes back

A checklist of what to read on the airline site (the upgrade banner and its price, the premium seat map with the caveat that open seats are seats the airline still wants to sell, a dummy search for the premium fare on your date, your position on the upgrade list after check-in) and the ranked pathways. On my Delta test: free Silver list, same-day change to a flight with a softer cabin, gate standby, then the miles offer, the cash offer, and cancel-and-rebuy at the bottom. Each with a number, a confirm-or-waitlist tag and a deadline.

TIP

Same-day confirmed change is the pathway most people never consider. As a Medallion or the equivalent, moving to a different flight on the same route with a shorter upgrade list is free, and a shorter list is the whole game.

Prompt 3: Go Get The Seat

This is the trick from the video. In Work mode, ChatGPT has a browser. On chatgpt.com it's a cloud browser it opens on its own; in the desktop app there's also a built-in browser (Cmd+Shift+B on Mac, Ctrl+Shift+B on Windows). Type **@browser** or just ask, and Work decides it needs one. Paid plans only, not Free or Go. Send this in the same chat.

PROMPT 3: THE CHASE

```
@browser Now go get me the upgrade. Open [AIRLINE]
and pull up my booking with confirmation code [CODE]
and last name [NAME]. I'll log in myself when you
reach the sign-in page. Read the [business/first]
seat map and the upgrade offers on the booking.
Then take the best path from my Canvas:
- Use miles only if cash price divided by miles
price is at or above $[0.012].
- If my airline runs upgrade bidding, place the bid
at the smartest number likely to win without
overpaying, and explain the number.
- Otherwise confirm I'm on the upgrade list and
report my position.
Pause and show me the exact price before anything
that costs money or miles. Then update the Canvas
with what happened and what to check next.
```

What happens on screen

ChatGPT opens the airline site and narrates. At the sign-in page it stops: in the cloud browser you type your credentials into a secure form that is never stored; in the desktop browser you sign in on the page yourself. Then it reads the booking, shows the offer with the cash price, the miles price and the cents-per-mile math, and stops again. Work pauses on its own before anything that creates a payment or a commitment, so that second stop is built in. The **\$0.012** line is your floor: a \$300 upgrade for 30,000 miles is one cent per mile, so ChatGPT keeps the miles and recommends cash. Raise it if you hoard points, lower it if you have more miles than trips.

YOU ARE ALWAYS THE LAST CLICK

You type the password, you approve the charge. Never paste your airline login into the chat. Watch the first run rather than walking away. This is the one prompt I couldn't run from here (it needs your login and a real booking), but every step shows in the browser panel live.

The Smart Bid Number

Upgrade bidding is an auction for unsold premium seats. The airline emails you an invitation, you pick a number above the minimum, and a day or two before departure it tells you whether you won. You are charged only if it says yes.

Who runs it

Air Canada, Lufthansa, Singapore Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, Etihad, Aer Lingus, Air New Zealand and many others run bidding through a system called Plusgrade. Among US carriers, Hawaiian is the one with a real bidding program. American, Delta and United don't bid. British Airways, Emirates, Qatar, Air France and KLM don't either. If your airline isn't on the bid list, skip to chapter 7.

How ChatGPT picks the number

There is no published acceptance threshold, so anyone quoting a single exact number is guessing. What works is a range with conditions, which is exactly what ChatGPT gives you when you ask it to explain its number.

Rule	Why it works
Anchor on the fare gap	Take the business fare minus what you paid. Winning bids tend to land at 20 to 40 percent of that gap. A \$3,200 gap points to roughly \$650 to \$1,300.
Read the seat map, not the slider	The airline's weak/fair/strong labels are decorative. Empty cabin a week out means the minimum often clears. Three seats left means almost nothing clears.
Beat the round numbers	Most people bid the minimum or a round figure. \$850 beats the crowd at \$800 for fifty bucks.
Know your ceiling	Above about 35 percent of the gap, a check-in cash offer or a miles upgrade is usually the better deal.
Bid per person, per segment	Two travelers, two bids, two charges. Connections are bid separately. Nobody promises adjacent seats.

The timeline

Bids usually have to be in at least 72 hours before departure and can be raised, lowered or cancelled until about 48 hours out. The answer comes by email, typically 24 to 48 hours before the flight. Accepted bids are charged then and are non-refundable unless the flight is cancelled. Miles and status credit are earned on the economy fare you bought, not the cabin you end up in.

TIP

Ask ChatGPT to check the seat map twice: once when the invitation arrives and once about four days out. If the cabin filled up in between, lower the bid or pull it. If it emptied out, so can your bid.

When Your Airline Doesn't Do Bidding

If you fly American, Delta or United, there is no bid to place. That is not a dead end. It means the chase runs through four doors instead, and ChatGPT works them in this order.

Door	How it works on the big three	When to check
Miles upgrade on the booking	The airline shows a miles price (often with a cash copay) next to the cash price. Delta's miles price tracks the cash offer at roughly one cent per mile. United prices it per flight. Miles come out only when it clears.	Right after booking, then every few days. The price moves.
Cash upgrade offer	Same screen, in dollars. Often the cheapest path if the cabin is still open close to departure.	72 hours, 24 hours (check-in), and at the gate.
Certificates	PlusPoints, Global and Regional Upgrade Certificates, systemwide upgrades. Confirm when space exists, else waitlist near the top.	Apply at booking; the waitlist keeps working.
The upgrade list	Free space-available upgrades in status order. Co-brand cards and higher fare classes act as tiebreakers.	Day of departure. Watch the list in the app.

HOW THE LIST IS ORDERED (UNITED, AS AN EXAMPLE)

Top-tier invitation-only members first, then anyone with a miles or PlusPoints request in the queue, then elite tier, then fare class, then card-based tiebreakers, then who asked first. The lesson: a miles waitlist request costs nothing until it clears and jumps you ahead of every free upgrade hopeful. Put one in even if you never expect to pay.

The 24-hour sweep

Send this the day before the flight. It is the best use of the browser.

BONUS PROMPT: THE 24-HOUR SWEEP

```
It's 24 hours before my flight, confirmation [CODE].  
Open [AIRLINE] in the browser, check me in if check-in is  
open, then check three things: the current cash  
upgrade offer, the current miles upgrade price, and  
where I sit on the upgrade list. Compare each to the  
numbers in my Upgrade Power Canvas and tell me  
whether to buy now, wait for the gate, or stop  
caring. Pause before anything that costs money.
```

Bonus Prompts

Two more that came out of testing this. Both run in a normal chat, no browser needed.

The points math

Transfers are one-way, and a miles upgrade often returns under a cent per point. Make ChatGPT prove it's worth it first.

BONUS PROMPT: SHOULD I TRANSFER?

```
I have [X] Chase points and [Y] Amex points. My
flight is on [AIRLINE], [CITY] to [CITY] in [MONTH],
paid economy, and the booking shows an upgrade for
[$ CASH] or [MILES] miles. Tell me which of my bank
points transfer to this airline, how long each
transfer takes and any fees, and whether transferring
to cover the miles upgrade beats paying cash. Show
the math in cents per point and give me a clear yes
or no. Use web search for current transfer partners.
```

On the Delta test the answer was a clean no: Chase doesn't transfer to Delta, and the Amex transfer would have returned under a cent per point. Pay cash, keep the points for an international business award.

The multi-flight tracker

If you have several trips booked, have ChatGPT build one place to watch them all. Give it departure times and fare classes and the checkpoints go from approximate to exact.

BONUS PROMPT: UPGRADE TRACKER

```
Build me a Canvas called Upgrade Tracker for my
next flights: [AIRLINE ROUTE DATE,
AIRLINE ROUTE DATE, ...]. One card per flight with
the best upgrade path for that airline, the number
I need to watch (miles price, cash offer or bid
amount) that I can type in, the dates to check
(when booked, 72 hours out, 24 hours out, at the
gate), and a status I can click to update. Add a
checklist for each checkpoint, count down the days
to each flight, and remember my updates when I
reopen it on this device.
```

Mistakes That Cost People The Seat

Mistake	What to do instead
Trusting an old upgrade chart	Prices are dynamic now on the big US airlines. The real number is on your booking. Make ChatGPT search and label estimates.
Skipping the miles waitlist because you "won't pay"	A miles request costs nothing until it clears and sits above every free upgrade on the list. Put one in.
Bidding the minimum on a full cabin	Read the seat map first. Full cabin, no bid. Empty cabin, bid low. Half full, bid the range.
Transferring bank points before checking the math	Transfers are one-way. Run the cents-per-point prompt first. Under a cent, pay cash.
Basic economy tickets	Almost never upgradeable with miles or certificates. Check your fare class before you spend an hour on this.
Running it in Chat instead of Work	Chat has no browser. Switch to Work at the top or the chase prompt just describes what it would do.
Walking away during the browser run	ChatGPT pauses at sign-in and at payment and waits for you. Watch the first run.
Checking once	Cash offers drop close to departure when seats are unsold. Check at 72 hours, at check-in and at the gate.

The one-page version

Step	What you do	What ChatGPT does
1	Paste Prompt 1 with airline, code, date, route. Answer the interview in one message.	Maps every currency, searches current rules, builds the Upgrade Power Canvas, names the first move.
2	Install ChatGPT in the browser. Customize, then Connectors, then ChatGPT in the browser. Enable it in the chat. Log into the airline.	Waits.
3	Paste prompt 3 with @browser and your miles floor. Log in when it reaches the sign-in page.	Opens the booking, reads the cabin and offers, applies miles, bids, or checks the list. Pauses before money.
4	Approve the charge yourself.	Updates the Canvas with what happened and what to check next.
5	Day before: the 24-hour sweep.	Checks in, re-reads offers and the list, tells you buy, wait or stop.

DO THIS TONIGHT

Pick the next flight you have booked. Switch to Work, paste Prompt 1, answer the questions with your receipt open. Read the single-move box on the Canvas and do that one thing. Everything else in this guide is for the days after.

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