M A V E R I C K A I

ASK CHATGPT OR CLAUDE TO UPGRADE YOUR FLIGHT TO FIRST CLASS

ONE PROMPT, ONE DASHBOARD, AND A BROWSER THAT CHASES THE SEAT FOR YOU

You're probably sitting on miles, points and card perks you've never pointed at one specific flight. This is the ten-minute version: ChatGPT or Claude maps every upgrade currency you own, builds you a dashboard of your options for your exact flight, then opens a browser and goes after the seat.

The prompt that maps every upgrade currency you own

The Upgrade Power Dashboard for your exact flight

How to turn on the browser in ChatGPT or Claude so it chases the seat

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

The 24-hour sweep, the points math and a multi-flight tracker

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

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Start Here: You Have More Upgrade Power Than You Think

THE PLAN

1. Paste the master prompt and answer the interview in one message.
2. Read your Upgrade Power Dashboard and do the first move.
3. Turn on the browser and log in to your airline.
4. Send the chase prompt. You approve any charge.
5. The day before: run the 24-hour sweep.

Before you start

Your app: ChatGPT or Claude. The master prompt works on any plan. The browser chase uses ChatGPT Work (its cloud browser is on paid plans) or Claude in Chrome (Pro, Max, Team or Enterprise).

Your booking: Airline, confirmation code, last name, fare class letter and flight number.

Your balances: Miles, bank points, elite status and the cards you hold.

Your first goal: The one move your dashboard tells you to make first.

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

The answer is usually more than you 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 shows up at check-in. Maybe a bidding window you never opened. Nobody adds it up, so nobody uses it.

ChatGPT and Claude add it up. You give them the airline and the confirmation code, they interview you about your cards and points, and they hand back a ranked list of every path to the front cabin. Then, with a browser turned on, they go to the airline site and do the clicking.

TIP

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

Copy This First: Step 1, Map Everything You Own

In ChatGPT, choose **Work** with the **Chat / Work** switch at the top, so the same chat can open a browser later. **In Claude**, any new chat works.

Paste this in. It interviews you first, then maps everything and builds the dashboard. Fill in the 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 | COPY & PASTE

```
I'm flying [AIRLINE], confirmation code [CODE], last name [NAME], on [DATE] from [CITY]
to [CITY]. I want to upgrade this exact flight to first or business class. You can't
see my booking, so 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 for this ticket 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 an interactive dashboard called My Upgrade Power Dashboard: one card per
currency showing what I have, what it would cost for this flight, whether it can
confirm now or only waitlist and by what deadline, and a plain-English rating of how
likely it is to work. Rank the paths from best to worst and put the single move you'd
make first in a box at the top.
```

In ChatGPT, the dashboard shows up right in the chat. **In Claude**, it opens as an artifact next to your chat.

Why it's worded like that

"You can't see my booking" stops the AI talking as if it looked up your reservation. It can't from a chat. Everything comes from your answers, which is why the interview matters. Your last name is in there because the airline site asks for it later.

"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, the AI can confidently quote a chart that no longer exists.

Step 2: Read Your Upgrade Power Dashboard

You get one card per currency, ranked, with a box at the top that tells you the first move. Here's how to read 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 it 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.
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 flights looked like

United, San Francisco to Newark, in Claude. Silver status, 84,000 United miles, 120,000 Chase points, an Explorer card and a $312 economy fare. Ten cards. The miles upgrade on the booking came first (the only path that could confirm weeks out), Chase points as a refill for it, the cash offer as plan B at 24 hours and the gate, and the free Silver upgrade as a long shot. It flagged the Explorer card as no help for priority and the Amex and Marriott points as dead ends.

Delta, Atlanta to Los Angeles, in ChatGPT. Silver Medallion, 62,000 SkyMiles, 95,000 Amex points, 40,000 Chase, a Delta Gold Amex and a $289 main cabin fare. The free Silver list came first, the cash upgrade offer second (the $200 play, confirms instantly), and miles third (Delta pegs them near one cent each, so poor value). It flagged the Chase points as a dead end, since Chase doesn't transfer to Delta.

Both flagged that their airline runs no bidding. The video says "place the bid," and on airlines that offer bidding that's exactly what happens. On American, Delta and United there's no bid to place, so the dashboard steers you to miles, cash offers and the list instead.

TIP

Ask for the interactive bits: "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.

TIP

Partner miles can't upgrade another airline's ticket. Virgin Atlantic points book Delta seats, but they won't upgrade a ticket Delta sold you. If your bank points only transfer to partners, they feed a new booking, not an upgrade.

Step 3: Turn On the Browser

This is the trick from the video. To chase the seat, the AI needs a browser it can use on the airline site.

In ChatGPT

Stay in the same Work chat. On chatgpt.com, Work opens its own cloud browser when it needs one (paid plans). In the desktop app, you can type **@Browser** in your message to use the built-in browser, which keeps its own logins, separate from Chrome. Free and Go get limited Work in the desktop app. Not sure why this needs Work? The **Chat vs Work vs Codex guide** explains it.

When it reaches the airline's sign-in page, it stops, and you sign in yourself right in the browser.

In Claude

Claude in Chrome lets Claude open the airline site in your own Chrome, where you're already logged in, and click through while you watch. It needs a paid plan (Pro, Max, Team or Enterprise) and Chrome on a computer.

- **Install the extension.** In the Chrome Web Store, search for **Claude in Chrome**, click **Add to Chrome** and sign in with your Claude account. Pin it so it stays visible.
- **Turn on the connector.** On the left in Claude, choose **Customize**, then **Connectors**. Find **Claude in Chrome**, click **Configure** and switch it on.
- **Enable it in the chat.** In your dashboard chat, open the **+** menu by the message box, go to **Connectors** and switch on Claude in Chrome. It's off in every new chat, and this is the step most people miss.
- **Log into the airline first.** Open the airline site in a Chrome tab and sign in yourself before you send the prompt.

Rather keep Claude out of your Chrome? The Claude desktop app has its own built-in browser. Look for **Preferred browser** in the desktop app's Settings. Full setup and troubleshooting: my **Claude in Chrome setup guide**.

> **HEADS UP**
>
> Never paste your airline password into the chat, in either app. You sign in yourself, on the airline's own page.

Step 4: Go Get the Seat

Send this in the same chat as your dashboard, so it already knows your currencies and your limits.

PROMPT 2 | COPY & PASTE

```
Go to [AIRLINE]'s website in your browser and open my booking with confirmation code
[CODE] and last name [NAME]. If you reach a sign-in page, stop and let me sign in
myself. Check the [FIRST / BUSINESS] cabin on my flight: how many seats are still for
sale, what the airline is offering the upgrade for in cash and in miles, and whether
there is an upgrade bid option on this booking.

Compare what you find to the paths in my Upgrade Power Dashboard and take the best one:
- If the miles price values my miles at or above [1.2] cents each, apply the miles.
- If my airline runs upgrade bidding, place the bid at the smartest number that is
likely to win without overpaying, and explain your number.
- If neither is worth it, get me on the upgrade list as high as possible and tell me
where I sit.

Before you confirm anything that costs money or miles, pause and show me the exact
price and what you're about to click. Then update the dashboard with what happened and
what to check next.
```

What happens on screen

It opens the booking, reads the seat map and the offers, and narrates what it sees. When it reaches a step that spends money or miles, it stops and asks. You approve, it clicks, and you're on the list or in the seat.

The [1.2] cents line is your floor. 30,000 miles for a $300 upgrade is one cent per mile, so it keeps your miles and recommends cash. Raise it if you hoard points, lower it if you have more miles than trips.

HEADS UP

You're always the last click. It fills the forms and lines everything up. You read the number, check it against your dashboard, and approve the charge yourself. Watch the first run rather than walking away.

Step 5: The 24-Hour Sweep

Send this the day before the flight. It's the best use of the browser, because cash offers often drop when seats are still unsold close to departure.

PROMPT 3 | COPY & PASTE

```
It's 24 hours before my flight, confirmation [CODE]. Open [AIRLINE] in your 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 Dashboard and tell me whether to buy now, wait
for the gate, or stop caring. Pause before anything that costs money.
```

TIP

Check at three moments: 72 hours out, at check-in, and at the gate. The price moves, so one check isn't enough.

Planning the rest of the trip too? My **Claude travel agent guide** handles the bookings around the flight.

How Upgrades Work: The Seven Doors

An upgrade currency is anything that can be spent, applied or leaned on to move your seat forward. Each one is a separate door, and the dashboard checks them all.

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 don't 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 on the day of departure.	No. Pure waitlist.

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're only charged 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. Airlines change these programs, so let the AI confirm yours with web search.

How it picks the number

There's no published acceptance threshold, so anyone quoting one exact number is guessing. What works is a range with conditions, which is exactly what you get 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. An 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**
>
> Have it check the seat map twice: once when the invitation arrives and once about four days out. If the cabin filled up, 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's no bid to place. That's not a dead end. The chase just runs through four doors instead, 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.

TIP

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 tiebreakers, then who asked first. So 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.

Bonus Prompts

Three more. None of them need the browser.

Every path for this exact flight

Same chat as your dashboard. This adds the paths most people never think of, like a same-day change to a flight with a shorter upgrade list.

PROMPT 4 | COPY & PASTE

```
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 my Upgrade Power Dashboard with the ranking.
```

The points math

Transfers are one-way, and a miles upgrade often returns under a cent per point. Make it prove the transfer is worth it first.

PROMPT 5 | COPY & PASTE

```
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 it was a clean no: pay cash, keep the points for an international business award.

The multi-flight tracker

Got several trips booked? Build one place to watch them all. Add departure times and fare classes and the checkpoints get exact. In Claude, you can ask for an artifact instead of a spreadsheet.

PROMPT 6 | COPY & PASTE

```
Build me an Upgrade Tracker spreadsheet for my next flights: [AIRLINE ROUTE DATE,
AIRLINE ROUTE DATE, ...]. One row per flight with the best upgrade path for that
airline, a column for the number I need to watch (miles price, cash offer or bid
amount) that I can type into, the dates to check (when booked, 72 hours out, 24 hours
out, at the gate), a status column, and a countdown of days to each flight. Give me the
file to download.
```

Common Mistakes and Quick Fixes

If this happens	Try this
It quotes an old upgrade chart	Prices are dynamic now on the big US airlines. The real number is on your booking. Make it search and label estimates.
You skip 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.
You bid the minimum on a full cabin	Read the seat map first. Full cabin, no bid. Empty cabin, bid low. Half full, bid the range.
You transfer bank points before checking the math	Transfers are one-way. Run the points math prompt first. Under a cent, pay cash.
You're on a basic economy ticket	Almost never upgradeable with miles or certificates. Check your fare class before you spend an hour on this.
ChatGPT describes the chase instead of doing it	Chat has no browser. Run it in a Work chat, or type @Browser in the desktop app.
Claude writes an answer instead of opening Chrome	Open the + menu, go to Connectors and switch on Claude in Chrome for that chat.
Claude says it can't see the page	Refresh the tab and check the extension is allowed on that site. Still stuck? Update the extension.
You walk away during the browser run	It pauses at sign-in and before payment and waits for you. Watch the first run.
You check once	Cash offers drop close to departure when seats are unsold. Check at 72 hours, at check-in and at the gate.

Quick Reference: The One-Page Version

Step	What you do	What the AI does
1	ChatGPT: choose Work. Claude: new chat. Paste the master prompt and answer the interview in one message.	Maps every currency, searches current rules, builds the Upgrade Power Dashboard, names the first move.
2	Read the dashboard and do the first move.	Adds sliders and filters if you ask.
3	ChatGPT: stay in Work (cloud browser, or @Browser in the desktop app). Claude: Claude in Chrome on in Customize > Connectors and in the chat's + menu. Log in to the airline yourself.	Waits.
4	Paste the chase prompt with your miles floor. Approve any charge yourself.	Opens the booking, reads the cabin and offers, applies miles, bids, or joins the list. Pauses before money.
5	The day before: the 24-hour sweep.	Checks in, re-reads the offers and the list, tells you buy, wait or stop.

DO THIS TODAY

Pick the next flight you have booked. Paste the master prompt and answer the questions with your receipt open. Read the first-move box at the top of your dashboard and do that one thing. Everything else in this guide is for the days after.

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