

No. 80

AI SEARCH

Getting Started with Perplexity

Ask, research and browse with cited answers from Perplexity, explained for beginners

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

SECTRAININGNOW SERIES · NO. 80

Getting Started with Perplexity

Ask, research and browse with cited answers from Perplexity, explained for beginners

oJAYo
Published by oJAYo.com

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

Getting Started with Perplexity

Ask, research and browse with cited answers from Perplexity, explained for beginners

First edition, 2026. Copyright © 2026 oJAYo. Published by oJAYo.com. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or shared without written permission, except for brief quotations in reviews.

This book is an independent publication. Perplexity, Comet and Sonar are trademarks of Perplexity AI, Inc. All other product names are trademarks of their respective owners. oJAYo.com is not affiliated with, sponsored by or endorsed by any vendor named in this book.

The information in this book is provided for general education. AI products, features, plans, prices and policies change frequently; always confirm details in the vendor's current documentation. Screens marked “Illustration” are simplified drawings, not captures of real software. Company and person names in examples are fictional.

[ISBN: add if registered]

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

CONTENTS

How to use this book 1

PART I · FOUNDATIONS

1 What Perplexity is 5
2 How Perplexity works 7
3 The Perplexity family 9
4 Plans and pricing 11
5 Your first search 13

PART II · SEARCHING WELL

6 Asking good questions 16
7 Reading citations 18
8 Judging sources 20
9 Focus modes 22
10 Follow-ups and threads 23
11 Files and images 24
12 Choosing models 25
13 News, voice and shopping 26

PART III · GOING FURTHER

14 Deep Research 29
15 Labs 31
16 Spaces 32
17 The Comet browser 34
18 Computer and agents 36
19 Privacy and data 37

PART IV · PUTTING IT TO WORK

20 Ideas by role 40
21 Worked examples 42
22 Fixing common problems 44

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

23 Building good habits 45
Checklists 47
Glossary 48
Further reading 49

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this book

What this book covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

Perplexity calls itself an **answer engine**. Instead of giving you a list of links like a traditional search engine, it searches the web, reads the results and writes a direct answer, with numbered **citations** so you can see where each point came from. It is one of the ten most visited AI tools in the world, and a favourite of students, researchers and anyone who wants quick answers they can check.

Perplexity has grown beyond search. It now offers **Deep Research** reports, **Labs** for building reports and dashboards, **Spaces** for organizing projects, the **Comet** AI web browser, and **Computer**, an agent that carries out tasks.

This book is a beginner's guide. It shows how to ask good questions, read and check citations, choose sources, run deep research, organize your work, browse with AI safely, manage privacy and turn answers into useful work.

Which versions this book covers

- Perplexity on the web, mobile and desktop as of late 2026.
- The Free, Pro, Education Pro, Max and Enterprise plans in 2026.
- The Comet browser, free for everyone since October 2025.
- Perplexity Computer, launched in February 2026.

Features and limits change often. Check Perplexity's site for current details.

Who this book is for

- **Students** who need reliable sources for assignments.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

- **Professionals** who research markets, competitors, policies or technology.
- **Curious people** who want better answers than a list of links.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–5): what Perplexity is, how it works, the product family, plans, and your first search.
- **Part II — Searching well** (Chapters 6–13): good questions, reading citations, judging sources, focus modes, follow-ups, files, models, and news, voice and shopping.
- **Part III — Going further** (Chapters 14–19): Deep Research, Labs, Spaces, the Comet browser, Computer and agents, and privacy.
- **Part IV — Putting it to work** (Chapters 20–23): ideas by role, worked examples, fixing problems and building habits.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP

Practical advice you can use straight away.

IN PERPLEXITY

Details about how Perplexity itself does something.

WATCH OUT

Common mistakes and risks.

KEY IDEA

The one thing to remember from a section.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

A note on screens and examples

Screens are **simplified illustrations**, not copies of Perplexity's software. Names in examples are invented.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

PART I

Foundations

These chapters explain what Perplexity is, how it builds answers, the products in its family, which plan you need, and how to run your first search.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

CHAPTER 1

What Perplexity is

Perplexity combines web search with AI writing to give cited answers.

An answer engine

Perplexity was founded in 2022 in San Francisco. Its idea is simple: when you ask a question, you usually want an **answer**, not ten links. Perplexity searches the web, reads relevant pages, and writes a concise answer with **numbered citations** linking to its sources.

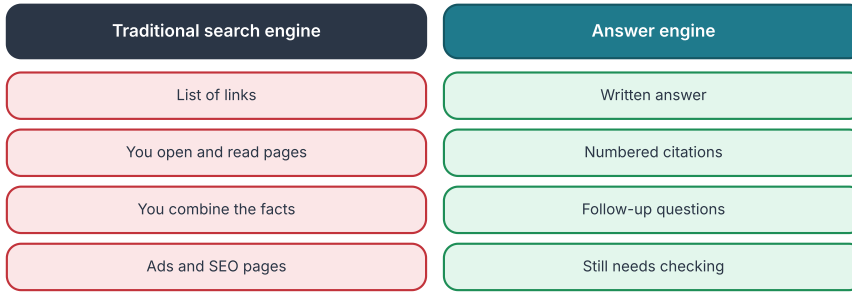


Figure 1.1 How an answer engine differs from a search engine

Why people like it

- **Speed**: one answer instead of many tabs.
- **Transparency**: citations show where claims come from.
- **Follow-ups**: you can keep asking in the same thread.
- **Current information**: it searches the live web.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

What it is not

- It is not always right. Answers can misread or misstate sources.
- Citations are not proof: a cited page can itself be wrong, old or biased.
- It is not a replacement for expert advice on health, law or money.

KEY IDEA

Perplexity's big advantage is that you can check it. Use that advantage every time an answer matters.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

CHAPTER 2

How Perplexity works

Understanding the steps behind an answer helps you ask better questions and spot errors.



Figure 2.1 From question to cited answer

Step by step

1. **You ask** a question in plain language.
2. **It searches** the web, and sometimes specific sources such as academic papers.
3. **It reads** the most relevant parts of the pages it found.
4. **An AI model writes** an answer that combines what it read.
5. **It adds citations** linking statements to sources.

Which AI models

Perplexity uses its own models, called **Sonar**, and also lets paying users choose models from other companies, such as OpenAI, Anthropic, Google and xAI. The model affects the writing and reasoning; the sources come from the search.

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

The oJAYo library

170 plain-language PDF books · $49 each · free sample of every book at ojayo.com

SAP SECURITY · 67 BOOKS

SAP Role Design Handbook
Access Control Field Guide
Signavio Process Governance
ABAC in Practice
Auditing SAP Systems
Securing SAP BTP
Securing SAP Fiori
SAP User Training Playbook
SAP Basis Essentials
SAP HANA Security
SAP Authorization Troubleshooting
HR and Payroll Security
Finance and Procurement Authorizations
BW and BusinessObjects Security
SAP Network and Web Security
SAP Security Interview Guide
SAP Cloud ALM Security
SAP Data Services Security
SAP Architecture Explained
SAP SD Security
SAP CRM Security
SAP SRM Security
SAP Ariba Security
SailPoint for SAP
SAP PP Security
SAP QM Security
PI/PO and Integration Suite Security
SAPUI5 Security
Testing in SAP Cloud ALM with Jira
SAP SLT Security
SAP PS Security
SAP Plant Maintenance Security
SAP EWM Security
SAP Digital Manufacturing Security
SAP SuccessFactors Security
Security in SAP Activate
SAP Concur Security
SAP Fieldglass Security
SAP Analytics Cloud Security
SAP Datasphere and Business Data Cloud Security
SAP Build and Work Zone Security
Joule and SAP Business AI Security
SAP MDG Security
SAP TM Security
SAP IBP Security
SAP GTS Security
SAP Sales, Service and Commerce Cloud Security
SAP S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition Security
SAP Business One and ByDesign Security
SAP Identity Management Migration
SAP Security Patching
Threat Detection and SIEM for SAP
Data Privacy (GDPR) for SAP
RISE with SAP Security
Ransomware and Incident Response for SAP
Compliance Mapping for SAP
Third-Party and Support Access for SAP
SAP Process Control and Risk Management
SAP Cloud Identity Access Governance
SAP Cloud Identity Services
SAP System Hardening
SAP Certificates and Encryption
SAP Penetration Testing
SAP Security Roadmap
Secure Development on SAP BTP
SAP Data Custodian and Data Sovereignty
Threat Intelligence for SAP

CYBERSECURITY · 64 BOOKS

Zero Trust Networks
Productivity at Work
ABAP Custom Code Security
S/4HANA Conversion Role Redesign
Getting Started with Canva AI
Getting Started with Character.AI
Getting Started with DeepL
Getting Started with Perplexity (you are reading…
Prompt Engineering
Cybersecurity Basics
Python for Beginners
JavaScript for Beginners
DevOps and Platform Engineering
AI-Powered Cyber Attacks
Securing AI Agents and Shadow AI
Ransomware
Phishing and Social Engineering
Deepfakes and Identity Fraud
Post-Quantum Cryptography
Software Supply Chain Security and DevSecOps
OT and Industrial Security
Sovereign Cloud and Data Sovereignty
Geopolitical Cyber Risk
Cloud Security and Identity Protection
Identity and Access Management Basics
Privileged Access Management
Passwordless and Passkeys
Identity Threat Detection and Response
SSO and Federation
AWS Security Fundamentals
Microsoft Azure and Entra ID Security
Google Cloud Security
Kubernetes and Container Security

FREE SAMPLE · ojayo.com

The oJAYo library (continued)

170 plain-language PDF books · $49 each · free sample of every book at ojayo.com

Cloud Security Posture Management
Serverless Security
OWASP Top 10 for Web Applications
API Security
Secure Coding Practices
Threat Modeling
Mobile App Security
SOC Fundamentals
Incident Response Planning
Digital Forensics
Threat Hunting
EDR and XDR
Malware Analysis Basics
Ethical Hacking for Beginners
Red Teaming and Purple Teaming
Bug Bounty Hunting
CTF for Beginners
Data Loss Prevention
Encryption Basics
Privacy Engineering and Privacy by Design
Data Classification and Governance
NIST CSF 2.0
ISO 27001
SOC 2 for Startups
PCI DSS 4.0
HIPAA Security for Healthcare
Third-Party and Vendor Risk Management
Email Security: DMARC, SPF and DKIM
IoT and Smart Device Security
Cyber Insurance
Security Awareness Training Programs

AI · 11 BOOKS

Working with Claude
Working with ChatGPT
Getting Started with Google Gemini
Getting Started with DeepSeek
Getting Started with Grok
Getting Started with Microsoft Copilot
Agentic AI Explained
MCP: The Model Context Protocol
Vibe Coding
AI Coding Tools
AI Detection

CERTIFICATION GUIDES · 28 BOOKS

CompTIA Security+ Study Guide
ISC2 CC Study Guide
ISC2 CISSP Study Guide
ISACA CISM Study Guide
ISACA CISA Study Guide
ISACA CRISC Study Guide
ISC2 CCSP Study Guide
CompTIA CySA+ Study Guide
CompTIA PenTest+ Study Guide
EC-Council CEH Study Guide
OffSec OSCP+ Study Guide
CompTIA SecurityX Study Guide
GIAC GSEC Study Guide
AWS Certified Security - Specialty Study Guide
Microsoft Security Certifications Study Guide
CompTIA SecAI+ Study Guide
ISACA AAISM Study Guide
ISACA AAIA Study Guide
ISACA AAIR Study Guide
IAPP AIGP Study Guide
ISO/IEC 42001 Lead Implementer and Lead Auditor…
AWS Certified AI Practitioner Study Guide
AWS Certified Machine Learning Engineer - Associ…
AWS Certified Generative AI Developer - Profession…
Microsoft AI-901 Study Guide
Microsoft AI-103 Study Guide
Google Cloud Generative AI Leader Study Guide
Google Cloud Professional Machine Learning Engin…

BUNDLES · 18 PACKS, SAVE UP TO $145

SAP Security Starter Pack (5 books, $149)
SAP GRC and Audit Pack (5 books, $129)
S/4HANA Migration Security Pack (4 books, $109)
SAP Cloud Security Pack (5 books, $129)
SAP Threat Defense Pack (5 books, $129)
Cybersecurity Starter Pack (5 books, $129)
Identity and Access Pack (5 books, $129)
Cloud Security Pack (6 books, $149)
SOC and Incident Response Pack (5 books, $129)
Application Security Pack (5 books, $129)
Security Compliance Pack (5 books, $129)
Ethical Hacking Pack (5 books, $129)
AI at Work Pack (5 books, $129)
AI Developer Pack (5 books, $129)
AI Security and Governance Pack (5 books, $129)
CISSP + Security+ Exam Pack (2 books, $79)
ISACA Exam Pack (3 books, $99)
AI Certification Pack (4 books, $109)

END OF FREE SAMPLE

Getting Started with Perplexity

Enjoyed it? The full book has 54 pages and 23 chapters.
Instant PDF download, $49.

Get the full book

ojayo.com · Created by the oJAYo expert team

This sample may be shared freely. The full book is licensed to one reader.