

Best AI Meeting Assistants 2026: An Honest Roundup

Eight AI meeting assistants tested against real calls in 2026. Ranked by transcription accuracy, summary quality, and how much they actually save you.

The AI meeting assistant space has quietly become one of the most crowded corners of B2B SaaS. Every tool promises the same three things: transcription, summaries, and action items. In practice, the gap between the best and the mediocre is huge — and it shows up in the details. Bad speaker attribution. Summaries that miss the actual decision. Action items that are just paraphrased small talk.

We ran the top eight tools against the same set of calls over four weeks in 2026 — a mix of sales discovery, engineering standups, and 1:1s — and scored them on transcription accuracy, summary quality, integrations, and price-to-value. Here's what actually held up.

1. Granola — Score: 9.4/10

Granola rethought the format. Instead of a bot joining your call, it listens locally to your mic and system audio, then merges your typed notes with an AI transcript. The result is the cleanest summary of anything we tested — because it uses *your* shorthand as the skeleton and fills in the meat. No awkward bot in the participant list, no sending a calendar invite to Fred.

Best for: Founders, PMs, and consultants who take notes anyway and want them elevated, not replaced.

Pricing: Free for 25 meetings, then \$18/mo.

2. Fathom — Score: 9.1/10

Fathom is the best genuinely-free option, and the paid tier isn't a downgrade trap. Transcription is fast, summaries are structured cleanly by topic, and the Zoom/Meet/Teams support is first-class. The killer feature is one-click clip sharing — highlight a moment, get a shareable link with the transcript. Sales teams have adopted it in droves for a reason.

Best for: Sales teams and anyone who needs to share meeting moments with stakeholders who weren't there.

Pricing: Free unlimited recording; Team Edition at \$19/user/mo.

3. Fireflies — Score: 8.7/10

Fireflies wins on integrations. If your workflow involves HubSpot, Salesforce, Notion, Slack, Asana, or basically any tool with an API, Fireflies has the deepest CRM sync of the bunch. Summaries are competent — not the best, not the worst — but the Ask Fred AI chat across your entire meeting history is genuinely useful for pipeline retrospectives.

Best for: Revenue teams that live in a CRM.

Pricing: Free tier limited; Pro \$18/user/mo; Business \$29/user/mo.

4. Otter — Score: 8.3/10

Otter is the veteran and it shows in transcription quality — best-in-class for accents, cross-talk, and technical vocabulary. The summary quality has caught up to competitors, and the live-transcript-during-the-meeting view is still the most polished. Loses points for a UI that feels dated and a pricing page that requires a spreadsheet to decode.

Best for: Journalists, researchers, and anyone whose priority is a searchable, accurate transcript over a slick summary.

Pricing: Free 300 min/mo; Pro \$16.99/mo; Business \$30/user/mo.

5. Circleback — Score: 8.1/10

Circleback does one thing exceptionally well: it produces summaries that read like a smart chief-of-staff wrote them. Structured, decision-focused, action items tagged to owners. No feature bloat. If you already have transcription solved elsewhere, this is the polish layer.

Best for: Executives and operators who care about summary quality above all else.

Pricing: \$25/user/mo.

6. tl;dv — Score: 7.8/10

Tldv is the video-clip specialist. Every meeting becomes a searchable library of moments you can splice, tag, and share. The AI summaries are middle-of-the-pack, but the video-first UX is a real differentiator for product teams doing customer interviews.

Best for: Product teams running customer research and user interviews.

Pricing: Free tier; Pro \$29/user/mo.

7. Read AI — Score: 7.5/10

Read Ai leans into meeting analytics — engagement scores, sentiment tracking, speaker time balance. Useful if you're trying to fix a meeting culture problem, gimmicky if you're not. Transcription and summaries are solid but not exceptional.

Best for: Managers auditing meeting effectiveness across a team.

Pricing: Free tier; Pro \$19.75/user/mo; Enterprise \$29.75/user/mo.

8. Krisp — Score: 7.2/10

Krisp came at this from the noise-cancellation angle and bolted on a meeting assistant. That heritage shows: audio quality on recordings is unmatched, which pays off when you're transcribing calls with background chaos. The AI notes feature is newer and less refined than dedicated competitors, but the bundle is compelling if you already pay for noise cancellation.

Best for: Remote workers with loud environments who want one tool instead of two.

Pricing: Free; Pro \$8/user/mo; Business \$16/user/mo.

Comparison Table

Tool	Score	Starting Price	Free Tier	Best At
Granola	9.4	\$18/mo	25 meetings	Note-taker hybrid
Fathom	9.1	Free	Unlimited	Clip sharing
Fireflies	8.7	\$18/user/mo	Limited	CRM integrations
Otter	8.3	\$16.99/mo	300 min/mo	Transcription accuracy
Circleback	8.1	\$25/user/mo	Trial only	Summary quality
tl;dv	7.8	Free	Yes	Video clips
Read AI	7.5	Free	Yes	Meeting analytics

Tool	Score	Starting Price	Free Tier	Best At
Krisp	7.2	Free	Yes	Audio quality

Final Picks

- **Best overall:** Granola — if the note-taking-hybrid model fits how you work, nothing else comes close.
- **Best free:** Fathom — genuinely usable at zero cost, and the paid upgrade is fair.
- **Best for sales teams:** Fireflies — the CRM integrations pay for themselves in the first week.
- **Best transcription:** Otter — still the accuracy benchmark.
- **Best summaries:** Circleback — worth it if summary quality is the deliverable.

Skip the tools claiming to do all of the above. In our testing, the specialists beat the generalists every time. Pick the one that matches how you actually work — not the one with the longest feature list.