# Granola AI Alternative: Real-Time Meeting Coaching, Not Just Notes

Compare Hedy vs Granola AI for meeting notes, transcripts, privacy defaults, platforms, and real-time coaching. See when to choose Hedy and when Granola is the better fit.

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Professional at an office desk viewing a dramatic explosion graphic on a laptop screen

Quick answer Hedy is the best Granola AI alternative for people who want more than polished meeting notes. Granola is a capable AI notepad. Hedy is an AI meeting coach: it gives you full transcripts, summaries, action items, Topics, and private Automatic Suggestions while the conversation is still happening. Choose Hedy if you want real-time coaching, Android and web access, Apple Watch controls, and stricter privacy defaults around AI training and sharing.

If you're searching for a Granola AI alternative, the real question is not "Which app makes better notes?" It is "Do I need help after the meeting, or during the meeting?"

Granola is built around the note. It helps you stay present, then turns the conversation into a clean, searchable memory afterward. That is valuable. For many users, it is enough.

Hedy is built around the live conversation. It captures transcripts and generates notes too, but the reason to switch is Automatic Suggestions: private prompts that help you ask better questions, catch missed details, and contribute while the meeting is still underway.

## Hedy vs Granola: quick verdict

Choose Hedy if you want a Granola alternative that acts like a real-time meeting coach, not just an AI notepad. Hedy is stronger for high-stakes conversations where you need live support, complete transcripts, cross-device access, and privacy defaults that do not put your meeting content into AI training.

Choose Granola if you mainly want a lightweight AI notepad for post-meeting summaries, your workflow is already centered on Granola, and you do not need live coaching during the call.

| Evaluation point | Hedy | Granola |
|---|---|---|
| Core job | Real-time AI meeting coaching plus transcripts and notes | AI-enhanced meeting notes and searchable meeting memory |
| Live help during meetings | Automatic Suggestions surface questions, gaps, and prompts in real time | Focused on notes, templates, chat, and follow-up after or around the meeting note |
| Transcript workflow | Live transcript, editable transcript, summaries, to-dos, Highlights, Topics | Transcript-backed AI notes, summaries, folders, spaces, and chat |
| Meeting bot | No bot joins the call | No bot joins the call |
| Platforms | iOS, Android, macOS, Windows, web, Apple Watch | macOS, Windows, and iPhone are currently promoted or documented |
| Privacy defaults | No session data used for AI model training, on-device speech recognition by default, explicit sharing | Granola says anonymized data may be used to improve services by default for non-enterprise users, with opt-out available |
| Best fit | Professionals who need to perform better during the conversation | Users and teams who want clean AI notes and shared meeting memory |

## Who should choose Hedy?

Choose Hedy when the meeting itself is the hard part.

That includes sales calls where a budget objection shows up twice, interviews where a follow-up question matters, coaching sessions where you need to track patterns across clients, patient appointments where you need to remember instructions, and multilingual meetings where staying present takes extra effort.

Hedy is strongest when you want:

• Real-time meeting coaching: Automatic Suggestions help you notice gaps, possible questions, and points worth clarifying while you can still act on them.

• Full transcripts, not only summaries: Hedy gives you live and post-session transcripts you can search, edit, and use as the source for notes, to-dos, Highlights, and chat.

• Cross-device workflows: Use Hedy on iOS, Android, macOS, Windows, web, and Apple Watch. Start or follow a session across devices when your meeting setup changes.

• Privacy-first defaults: Speech recognition runs on-device by default. Session data is not used for AI model training. Sharing is explicit.

• Meeting memory through Topics: Group related sessions by client, project, course, case, or health journey so past conversations can help with the next one.

If you want AI to help you be sharper in the room, Hedy is the better fit.

## Who should choose Granola?

Granola is a good fit if you want a focused AI notepad and your main pain is turning meetings into readable notes.

Granola's strengths are real: a clean notes-first product, no meeting bot, workspace features for teams, searchable meeting memory, and a product experience centered on getting from conversation to usable notes quickly. If your notes are the deliverable and you do not need coaching during the call, Granola may be enough.

Granola is also worth considering if your team has already standardized on its spaces, folders, shared templates, or admin workflows. Switching tools is only worth it when the new product solves a problem the old one does not.

## What is Granola AI?

Granola describes itself as an AI notepad for meetings. It captures audio from your device, helps you create notes without a visible meeting bot, and turns conversations into structured, searchable memory.

Granola is no longer just the Mac-only tool many older comparisons still describe. Its current site and documentation reference macOS, Windows, and iPhone. That matters because stale platform comparisons are misleading. Hedy's platform edge is not "Granola is Mac-only." It is broader cross-device meeting support: Android, web access, Apple Watch controls, and a workflow designed around real-time coaching across devices.

Granola is a notepad. Hedy is a meeting coach. That is the comparison that matters.

## How Hedy's real-time coaching differs from Granola's notes

Most AI meeting tools improve the record of what happened. Hedy improves what happens next in the conversation.

Automatic Suggestions listen for the live context of the meeting and surface useful prompts without requiring you to ask. For example:

• A client mentions budget pressure twice but never gives a range. Hedy may suggest asking what budget parameters you should work within.

• An interviewee gives a vague answer. Hedy may suggest a follow-up question that asks for a concrete example.

• A doctor explains a medication change quickly. Hedy may suggest clarifying dosage, timing, or next steps.

• A team agrees on a direction without naming an owner. Hedy may suggest confirming who is responsible before the meeting ends.

That is different from summarizing the meeting afterward. A good summary tells you what you missed. Real-time coaching helps you catch it before the moment is gone.

For a deeper explanation of the category, see Hedy's guide to AI meeting coaches . If you are evaluating Hedy for business meetings specifically, the commercial overview is here: AI meeting assistant for professionals .

## Privacy defaults: Hedy vs Granola

Privacy is one of the biggest reasons people compare Hedy and Granola. Both tools avoid the visible meeting bot. That is good for natural conversations. But botless capture does not answer every privacy question.

Two defaults matter more:

1. Can meeting content be used to improve AI models or services by default? Granola's model training documentation says: "By default, we may use anonymized data to improve our services, but this data is never sent to third parties." Enterprise customers can have different controls, and non-enterprise users can opt out in settings.
2. What happens when notes are shared? In April 2026, The Verge reported that Granola shared note links could be opened by anyone with the link by default. Granola described the behavior as similar to unlisted Dropbox links and said users can change sharing defaults.

Those choices may be acceptable for many users. The issue is that they require the user to know the defaults before the first sensitive conversation.

Hedy uses a stricter default posture. Speech recognition runs on-device by default. Audio stays on your device unless you explicitly enable cloud sync or sharing. Hedy does not use session data to train AI models, and its inference partners are not allowed to train on it either. EU data residency is available for users who select it during signup.

| Privacy question | Hedy | Granola |
|---|---|---|
| Uses session data for AI model training | No | Granola says anonymized data may be used to improve services by default for non-enterprise users, with opt-out available |
| Speech recognition | On-device by default | Device capture with cloud AI processing for notes |
| Meeting bot | No | No |
| Sharing | Explicit sharing through invites or links | Shared note links may be accessible to anyone with the link unless settings are changed |
| EU data residency | Selectable at signup | Not promoted as a per-user data residency choice in the current pricing and product pages checked |

Consent still matters. No-bot capture does not remove recording laws, workplace policies, or professional obligations. Tell people when you record.

## How transcription compares

Granola's product centers the AI note. Hedy centers the conversation record and the live coaching built on top of it.

With Hedy, the transcript is not just an archive. It is a working surface during the meeting and a source for everything that comes after: summaries, detailed notes, action items, Highlights, Topics, and chat across past sessions.

Hedy also supports custom vocabulary for names, technical terms, acronyms, and industry language. After a session, you can edit transcripts when you need the record to be cleaner. That matters for researchers, coaches, consultants, medical patients, journalists, and anyone whose meetings contain names or specialist language a generic summary might smooth over.

Granola can be a cleaner choice if you do not want to manage transcripts and mainly care about the final note. Hedy is better if the full record matters.

## Platform support: where Hedy is broader

Older Granola comparisons often say Granola is Mac-only. That is stale. Granola currently promotes or documents macOS, Windows, and iPhone.

Hedy's advantage is broader coverage and a more flexible meeting setup:

• iOS and Android for in-person meetings
• macOS and Windows for desktop meetings
• web access for reviewing sessions and meeting memory
• Apple Watch for session status and controls
• multi-device sessions so you can record on one device and follow along on another

That matters because real meetings are messy. Some happen on Zoom. Some happen in a conference room. Some happen while you are walking into an appointment with only your phone. A Granola alternative should fit the meeting, not force the meeting to fit the app.

## Pricing: Hedy vs Granola

Hedy's pricing is simple:

• Free: $0/month, 5 hours per month, 30 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session, transcription, summaries, and 30+ languages.
• Pro: $12.99/month or $99.99/year, unlimited sessions, 120 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session, Topics, Highlights, sharing, export, webhooks, and API access.

Granola currently lists:

• Basic: Free, positioned as a free taste of Granola.
• Business: $14/user/month, with unlimited meeting notes and history.
• Enterprise: $35/user/month, for larger companies.

Do not choose based on a one-dollar monthly difference. Choose based on the job. If you need team notes, Granola's Business plan may be a good fit. If you need live coaching, full transcripts, and broader device support, Hedy Pro is the better value.

## What about Otter.ai and Fireflies.ai?

If you are comparing Granola alternatives, Otter.ai and Fireflies.ai will probably show up too.

Otter.ai is a strong transcription and meeting-summary product. Fireflies.ai is strong for sales and CRM workflows. Both are more established than Hedy in traditional AI note-taking conversations, and both have useful team features.

The trade-off is the meeting experience. Otter and Fireflies commonly use visible meeting bots. That can be fine for internal team calls, but it can also change the tone of sales calls, coaching sessions, interviews, patient appointments, and other sensitive conversations.

Hedy and Granola share the no-bot advantage. Hedy's extra edge is the live coaching layer. Granola gives you the notes. Hedy helps with the meeting itself.

## Is Hedy the best Granola alternative?

Hedy is the best Granola alternative if you are switching because notes are not enough.

Use Granola when the output you want is a clean meeting note. Use Hedy when the outcome you want is a better conversation.

That distinction sounds small until you are in the meeting. A note can tell you later that the client never defined success. Hedy can prompt you to ask before the call ends. A summary can show that no owner was assigned. Hedy can nudge you to clarify ownership while everyone is still there. A transcript can preserve what was said. Hedy can help you decide what to say next.

That is the real reason to choose Hedy over Granola: not more documentation, better participation.

## Key takeaways

• Granola is a strong AI notepad for clean post-meeting notes and searchable memory.
• Hedy is an AI meeting coach for people who want real-time help during the conversation.
• Both products work without a visible meeting bot.
• Hedy is broader across iOS, Android, macOS, Windows, web, and Apple Watch.
• Hedy does not use session data to train AI models.
• Granola's documentation says anonymized data may be used to improve services by default for non-enterprise users, with opt-out available.
• Hedy Free includes 5 hours per month and Automatic Suggestions. Hedy Pro is $12.99/month or $99.99/year.
• The best choice depends on the job: notes after the meeting, or coaching during it.

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the best Granola AI alternative?

Hedy is the better Granola AI alternative if you want real-time meeting coaching, full editable transcripts, Android and web access, Apple Watch controls, and privacy defaults built around opt-in sharing and no AI model training on your conversations. Granola is a strong AI notepad if you mainly want polished notes after the meeting.

### How is Hedy different from Granola?

Granola focuses on turning conversations into AI-enhanced meeting notes and searchable memory. Hedy includes notes and transcripts, but its main difference is Automatic Suggestions: private AI coaching during the conversation, with prompts, questions, and gaps surfaced while you can still use them.

### Does Hedy work without a meeting bot like Granola?

Yes. Hedy captures audio directly from your device instead of sending a bot into Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Webex, or an in-person conversation. You still need to follow recording-consent rules in your location and context.

### Does Hedy use my meetings to train AI models?

No. Hedy does not use your conversation data, transcripts, or AI-generated content to train AI models, and Hedy's inference partners are not allowed to train on it either. Granola's documentation says non-enterprise users may have anonymized data used to improve its services by default, with an opt-out available in settings.

### How does Hedy pricing compare to Granola?

Hedy has a Free plan with 5 hours per month and 30 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session. Hedy Pro is $12.99/month or $99.99/year and includes unlimited sessions, 120 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session, Topics, sharing, export, webhooks, and API access. Granola currently lists Basic, Business, and Enterprise plans, with Business at $14/user/month and Enterprise at $35/user/month.

### Who should choose Granola instead of Hedy?

Choose Granola if your main job is clean post-meeting notes, your team is already centered on Granola's workspace features, and you do not need real-time coaching during the call. Choose Hedy if the meeting itself is where you need help asking better questions, tracking what was missed, and staying sharp while the conversation is still happening.

## Try Hedy as your Granola alternative

If you want better notes after the meeting, Granola may be enough.

If you want help during the meeting, try Hedy. The free plan includes 5 hours per month, live transcription, summaries, and Automatic Suggestions for the first 30 minutes of each session. No credit card required.

Download Hedy and use it in your next meeting.

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