

Otter.ai Alternative: Hedy AI Notetaker with Real-Time Coaching (2026)

Otter.ai alternative for transcripts, summaries, searchable Topics, API/webhooks, and real-time coaching. See why Otter users switch to Hedy.

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Three colleagues laughing around a laptop in a cafe with holographic chat and audio icons

Quick answer Hedy is the stronger Otter.ai alternative for people who want more than passive meeting notes: transcription, summaries, highlights, to-dos, searchable Topics across sessions, and real-time coaching while the conversation is still happening. Otter is still worth considering if your main need is centralized enterprise admin, SSO/SCIM, meeting-bot workflows, or sales-team rollout.

Otter.ai Alternative: Is Hedy the Better Fit?

If you searched for an Otter.ai alternative, you probably want the core AI-notetaker jobs covered: capture the conversation, produce a usable transcript, summarize the important points, pull out action items, and let you search what happened later. Hedy does that, then adds the thing standard notetakers miss: real-time help while the conversation is still happening.

That is the comparison that matters. Otter is a credible AI notetaker with mature team and enterprise workflows. Hedy is an AI meeting coach and notetaker for individuals who want the transcript, summary, searchable history, and the prompt they needed before the moment passed.

This page compares the real decision: a standard meeting notetaker workflow versus Hedy's notetaker, searchable meeting memory, automation, and real-time coaching in one workflow.

At a glance

Job to be done | Better fit | Why

Personal AI notetaking: transcripts, summaries, highlights, to-dos, searchable history | Hedy | Hedy covers the meeting record and adds Topics for cross-session search and context

Real-time coaching during important conversations | Hedy | Automatic Suggestions push useful prompts while the conversation is still happening

Botless capture on a personal device | Hedy by default | Hedy never sends a meeting bot. Otter also offers bot-free desktop recording on its own apps.

Broad transcription language coverage | Hedy | Hedy supports 30+ transcription languages. Otter's pricing page currently lists AI transcription in English, French, or Spanish.

Enterprise admin, meeting-bot workflows, and sales-team rollout | Otter.ai | Otter has broader centralized admin, SSO/SCIM, domain capture, and sales-team rollout workflows

Enterprise meeting workflows, SSO/SCIM, sales agent stack | Otter.ai | Otter's enterprise tier emphasizes admin, security controls, domain capture, video replay, and a sales notetaker

Where Otter.ai still has an enterprise edge

Otter is worth considering when the buying decision is about organization-level rollout rather than an individual professional's meeting workflow. Its clearest advantages are narrower:

- Enterprise admin, SSO/SCIM, domain capture, and centralized controls
- Meeting-bot workflows for teams that want a participant joining Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet
- Sales-team rollout features, including an Otter Sales Notetaker and CRM-oriented workflow packaging
- Enterprise add-ons such as video replay for Zoom and Google Meet plus centralized rollout controls

Those are real team-administration strengths. They are not reasons to position Otter ahead of Hedy for the core AI-notetaker jobs. Hedy should be evaluated as the stronger personal workflow for transcripts, summaries, highlights, to-dos, searchable Topics, meeting memory, and real-time guidance.

What Hedy does well

Hedy is built for both the meeting record and the moment the conversation is still happening.

- Automatic Suggestions: Hedy listens on-device and proactively surfaces questions to ask, gaps to close, and points to clarify, without you prompting it. Free users get 30 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session. Pro users get 120 minutes per session.
- Searchable meeting records: Hedy keeps transcripts, summaries, highlights, to-dos, and session history you can revisit after the meeting.
- Topics: Group related sessions by client, project, course, or health journey. Topics produce AI overviews, topic-scoped chat that cites past sessions, and automatic prep notes at the start of every new session in that topic.
- Highlights: One-tap capture of a moment, with an automatic Zettelkasten-style note containing a title, cleaned transcript, main idea, and analytical perspective.
- 30+ transcription languages: Built for multilingual professionals and non-native speakers.
- Cross-platform: iOS, Android, macOS, Windows, web, and an Apple Watch companion.
- On-device speech recognition by default. No session data is used for AI model training. No bot joins your calls.

- Specialized session modes: Business Meeting, Lecture, Journalism / Interview, Coaching & Mentoring, Job Interview (Candidate), Negotiation, Group Brainstorm, and Medical Consultation for patients attending their own appointments.

If your job is to be sharper while the conversation is still in flight, Hedy fits that directly.

The biggest workflow difference

Otter and Hedy answer different questions.

Otter answers: "What was said in that meeting, and how do I find, share, and act on it later?"

Hedy answers: "What should I notice or ask while this conversation is still happening?"

Both produce transcripts. Both produce summaries. Both surface action items. The difference is not that Otter owns the meeting record and Hedy does not. Hedy covers the record, then uses that record through Topics, prep notes, and topic-scoped chat. The wedge is that Hedy also helps while the conversation is still in flight.

Some professionals may still run both if their company has standardized on Otter for team admin. But if you are choosing for yourself, Hedy is not just the coaching add-on. It is the notetaker, searchable meeting memory, automation layer, and real-time coach in one workflow.

Pricing and limits

Hedy

- Free: \$0 per month, 5 hours of meetings per month, the first 30 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session, on-device transcription, summaries, and 30+ language support.
- Pro: \$12.99 per month, or \$99.99 per year. Unlimited sessions, 120 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session, Topics, Highlights, sharing, webhooks, API access, transcript export, custom vocabulary, specialized session modes.
- Lifetime: \$299 one-time, all Pro features, including future updates.

Otter.ai

Verify on Otter's pricing page before deciding, because promos shift.

- Basic: free tier with monthly transcription minute caps and per-meeting length limits.
- Pro: \$16.99 per user per month monthly, or \$8.49 per user per month annual, with 1,200 in-app recording minutes and up to 90 minutes per meeting.
- Business: \$30 per user per month monthly, or \$24 per user per month during the current annual promo, with 6,000 monthly transcription minutes and up to 4 hours per meeting.
- Enterprise: custom pricing with SSO/SCIM, domain capture, enterprise security controls, HIPAA compliance as an add-on, an Otter Sales Notetaker, and video replay for Zoom and Google Meet.

The two pricing structures answer different needs. Otter prices around per-user and per-monthly-minute capacity for teams. Hedy prices around unlimited sessions for an individual, with a per-session limit on Automatic Suggestions instead.

Privacy and bot behavior

This section is intentionally narrow. Privacy comparisons get loud quickly, and the loud claims are usually not the ones worth repeating.

Hedy's approved privacy posture:

- Speech recognition runs on-device by default
- No session data is used for AI model training
- No meeting bot joins your calls
- TLS 1.3 in transit, AES-256 at rest
- GDPR documented at trust.hedy.ai, with EU data residency available for new users at signup
- SOC 2 and HIPAA compliance work in progress

Otter's posture is documented in its current privacy policy. It describes training proprietary AI on de-identified audio recordings and on transcriptions to improve services. If privacy is central to your decision, read Otter's policy directly and review its recording and meeting-bot settings before turning it loose on real meetings.

Bot behavior is the most concrete, decision-relevant difference. Otter offers an AI Meeting Agent that joins Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet, and it also offers bot-free desktop recording on its own apps. Hedy never sends a meeting bot. If you specifically do not want a third-party participant joining your meetings, Hedy is the simpler answer, and Otter's bot-free desktop recording is a workable answer if you stay on its native apps.

Best fit by use case

Sales and client calls

- Otter: useful if your company has already standardized on Otter Sales Notetaker and centralized admin. Heavier features sit on Enterprise.
- Hedy: stronger fit if you want suggestions while the prospect is still talking. Hedy can flag a concern that came up several times across the conversation and recommend addressing it directly, before the call ends.

Coaches, consultants, and advisors

- Otter: useful if your team has standardized on shared client records and admin-managed workflows.
- Hedy: useful for the individual coach. Topics group every session with a single client. Prep notes at the start of each new session pull from prior history. Automatic Suggestions can prompt the next question worth asking.

Journalists, podcasters, and researchers

- Otter: useful if your workflow is mostly post-interview transcript cleanup and sharing.
- Hedy: catches the follow-up question while the source is still in the room. Highlights capture quotable moments. The Journalism / Interview session mode tunes suggestions for that work.

Job seekers and candidates

- Otter: not the natural fit. Otter is a meeting-record tool.

- Hedy: the Job Interview (Candidate) session mode runs on the candidate's side. Real-time prompts suggest clarifying questions and angles to bring up.

Multilingual and non-native English speakers

- Otter: the pricing page currently lists AI transcription in English, French, or Spanish.
- Hedy: 30+ transcription languages, designed for confidence in a second language.

Patients attending their own medical appointments

- Otter: HIPAA compliance is offered as an add-on under Enterprise. Not built around the patient.
- Hedy: the Medical Consultation session mode is patient-side only. It is for patients attending their own appointments, not for clinicians taking notes on others. Hedy is not marketed to medical practitioners for clinical use.

Students and lifelong learners

- Otter: works for capturing lectures inside its limits. Lower-tier plans cap monthly minutes and per-meeting length.
- Hedy: the Lecture session mode plus Topics for grouping a full course of lectures and chatting across them.

Teams that need automation, admin, and SSO

- Otter: useful when your company has standardized on Otter's centralized admin, SSO/SCIM, meeting-bot workflow, and sales notetaker.
- Hedy: strongest when the individual also wants automation flexibility. Hedy Pro includes Topics, exports, API access, and webhooks for custom meeting workflows.

What we are not claiming on this page

To keep this comparison honest:

- We are not pretending Otter lacks product depth. The point is narrower: Hedy should not be treated as only a coaching add-on when it also covers transcripts, summaries, searchable Topics, highlights, to-dos, and meeting memory.
- We are not treating Hedy as an enterprise replacement for Otter. Otter Enterprise includes admin, SSO/SCIM, video replay for Zoom and Google Meet, and an Otter Sales Notetaker. Compare on the specific features that matter to you.
- We are not citing exact transcription accuracy percentages. Real accuracy varies by audio quality, language, and accent.
- We are not repeating third-party controversy claims. Read primary sources if those are decision-critical for you.
- We are not promising adoption numbers, awards, or testimonials on this page.

Frequently asked questions

Is Hedy a good Otter.ai alternative?

Yes. Hedy covers the core AI-notetaker jobs: transcription, summaries, highlights, to-dos, searchable session history, and Topics that group related meetings across a client, project, course, or health journey. Otter is mature for centralized team admin, SSO/SCIM, meeting-bot workflows, and sales-team rollout. Hedy is the stronger alternative when you want those meeting records plus real-time coaching during the

conversation.

Does Hedy work with Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet?

Yes, without sending a meeting bot. The macOS app captures system audio directly. The iOS and Android apps capture microphone audio for in-person meetings or laptop-speaker calls. Otter has an AI Meeting Agent that joins those platforms, and it also offers bot-free desktop recording on its own apps.

How much does Hedy cost compared to Otter?

Hedy Free is \$0 for 5 hours per month. Hedy Pro is \$12.99 per month, or \$99.99 per year. Hedy Lifetime is \$299 one-time. Otter currently lists Pro at \$16.99 per user per month, or \$8.49 per user per month annual, and Business at \$30 per user per month, or \$24 per user per month during the current annual promo, with caps across tiers below Enterprise. Check Otter's pricing page for current numbers.

Does Hedy or Otter support more languages?

Hedy supports 30+ transcription languages. Otter's pricing page currently lists AI transcription in English, French, or Spanish.

Is Hedy more private than Otter.ai?

Compare each tool's current privacy policy and recording workflow before deciding. Hedy uses on-device speech recognition by default, does not use session data for AI model training, and does not send a meeting bot. Otter's privacy policy describes training proprietary AI on de-identified audio recordings and on transcriptions to improve services. If privacy is central to your decision, read Otter's policy directly.

Can I try Hedy free before switching from Otter?

Yes. Hedy Free includes 5 hours of meetings per month, real-time AI insights, 30+ transcription languages, AI summaries, and the first 30 minutes of Automatic Suggestions per session. No credit card. That is enough to test Hedy in real meetings before deciding.

How to choose

Choose Otter.ai if your priority is company-wide admin, SSO/SCIM, meeting-bot workflows, or a sales notetaker your whole team has standardized around.

Choose Hedy if you want the core AI-notetaker workflow plus real-time coaching: transcripts, summaries, highlights, to-dos, searchable Topics across sessions, API access, webhooks, support across 30+ transcription languages, on-device speech recognition by default, and no meeting bot joining your calls.

If you want to try Hedy first, the free plan is enough to test it in your next real meeting.

Try Hedy free (<https://www.hedy.ai>) | See pricing (</pricing/>) | Read the FAQ (</faq/>)

Hedy AI · Live AI Coaching for Important Conversations

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