

The Shopping Scout

COMPARE / VERIFY / WATCH



— THE RECEIPT / PLAIN LANGUAGE, NOT CODE

How I saved **20%** on bougie sandals by asking ChatGPT Work in plain English (no code required).

One casual request replaced the discount-code testing, retailer hunting, and endless clicking I would normally do myself.

WHAT I TYPED

“Help me find the best deal for these sandals. These are the colors that I’m into.”

Then I added a URL. That’s it.



Real product image: MESSAGE Mullen Slide. [Source](#).

WHAT CHATGPT HANDLED

- ✓ **Tested discount codes on the site**
instead of making me copy and paste codes one by one.
 - ✓ **Found the relevant retailers**
instead of making me run a Google Shopping search and open tab after tab.
 - ✓ **Compared the actual deals**
so I could see which option really saved the most.
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THE OUTCOME

I saved 20% off the price.

AND saved an estimated 1–2 hours of scrolling, code testing, and retailer hopping.

The useful proof: ChatGPT handled the shopping hunt. I kept the judgment—and made the purchase myself.

— NOW YOUR TURN

Here's how you do it.

Three moves and a final check—you stay in charge of the buy.



FIG. 01 / STEP 01 / OPEN THE RIGHT WORKSPACE

Choose **ChatGPT Work**. Use the **in-app browser**.

Start a new chat and select **Work** at the top. You can also use Codex. But Chat won't cut it.

DESKTOP APP

Open the built-in browser.

- 01 Choose ChatGPT → Work.** Select ChatGPT from the top-left menu, then choose Work at the top of the page.
- 02 Open Browser from the toolbar.** Or press **⌘ Shift B** on Mac / **Ctrl Shift B** on Windows.
- 03 Type the request in the Work chat.** Paste a product link if you have one, or describe what you want. Ask ChatGPT to use the browser.
- 04 Approve the website.** Use **Allow once** while testing. Save access only for a retailer you expect to revisit.

Just type the request.

- 01 **Choose ChatGPT → Work.** Start a new Work chat or open the project where you want the research to live.
- 02 **Paste the link—or describe the product.** Then ask for the best price, a working discount, or a price monitor.
- 03 **ChatGPT selects cloud browser automatically** when a supported public website is needed. There is no Browser plugin or `@Browser` tag to install.
- 04 **Review what it opens.** Cloud browser cannot sign in or complete payments. Stop if the site or product is wrong.

Permission rule: approve only the website ChatGPT names. The desktop browser keeps its own browsing state; do not connect your everyday Chrome profile or allow purchases and payment submission for this exercise.

Pro tip: Shopping for a lot of separate things? Keep each item in its own chat, and create one project folder to hold all of your shopping monitors.

Checked August 2026 against OpenAI's guides to the desktop built-in browser and cloud browser.



FIG. 02 / STEP 02 / TYPE THE BRIEF

Describe it—or paste the link.

You do not need a model number. Type what you are looking for in your own words, or paste the product URL if you already have it.

Find the best deal

Use the browser to help me find the best available deal on [describe the product in your own words or paste a link].

Optional details I care about: [color, style, size, budget, condition, location—or delete this line].

First, identify the product I mean. If something important is unclear, ask me one short follow-up question.

Then search the official retailer and the wider web. Look for both:

- the best current price from a trustworthy seller
- discount codes or official offers that could lower it further

Compare the real total, including disclosed shipping, required memberships, return policy, warranty, condition, and seller reliability. Reject results that do not match the product we identified.

For the best options, give me the direct link, total price before tax, discount used, and what you verified yourself. Label anything reported by another site as unverified. Do not purchase anything or submit personal or payment information.

Set a shopping monitor

Use the browser to watch the web for [one item, several items, a type of item, a brand, or paste one or more links].

Optional details I care about: [brands to include or exclude, color, style, size, condition, location—or delete this line].

Target: [a price, a percentage off, or “tell me when there is a meaningfully better deal”].

Schedule: [every morning / twice a week / weekly].

First, run the search once in this chat so I can confirm that you understood what I want to monitor. Ask me one short follow-up question if the scope or target is unclear.

After I confirm it, create a scheduled monitor. Alert me only when a result matches the criteria I confirmed, is in stock, and meets my target. Include the item name, price, shipping, condition, seller, return policy,

and direct link. Do not repeat the same result. Never purchase, contact a seller, or submit personal information. If a site asks for a new permission, login, CAPTCHA, or verification, stop and tell me.

More detail helps, but it is optional. Add a color, style, size, budget, condition, or location if any of those matter to you. For a monitor, you can watch one item, several items, a type of item, or a brand. ChatGPT can ask a follow-up question when it needs one.

Pro tip: Use voice dictation to fill in the brackets. Say what you want the way you would explain it to a friend.

For monitors, create the task from ChatGPT Work and manage it under **Scheduled**. OpenAI recommends testing the prompt in a normal chat before scheduling it. See [Scheduled tasks](#).



FIG. 03 / STEP 03 / READ THE PROOF

Not every “deal” deserves the same confidence.

01	Checkout verified Successfully applied to the exact product in the live cart.	STRONGEST
02	Official The retailer publishes the promotion or eligibility discount.	STRONG
03	Recently reported Multiple recent shoppers or reputable sources report success.	TRY IT
04	Listed but unverified A coupon site claims it works; ChatGPT could not confirm it.	LOW
05	Mismatch Wrong model, size, color, condition, region, or seller. Exclude it.	REJECT

What did you verify directly—and what are you repeating from another source?



— FIG. 04 / STEP 04 / CLOSE THE LOOP

The final checkout is *yours*.

Before buying, personally confirm the details that determine whether this is actually a good decision.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Exact model, version, size, and color | ☐ Condition |
| ☐ Final price after discount | ☐ Shipping and estimated arrival |
| ☐ Return policy | ☐ Warranty |
| ☐ Seller identity and reliability | ☐ No unwanted subscription or membership |

ChatGPT can do the hunting. Your judgment closes the loop.

THINK WITH **V**



I write about what AI is doing to how we think—and how to keep thinking for ourselves. More practical field guides at vanessachang.com.