



Research and study with Gemini

Deep Research, Guided Learning and Canvas: three tools for three jobs

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How to use this handout

This handout gathers, in written and ordered form, everything covered in the lesson. You do not need to memorise it: it is there so you can find things again calmly, later, when the lesson is over and a question is left hanging.

GOAL

Know when to use Deep Research, Guided Learning and Canvas, start them from the tools menu and take the results out of Gemini.

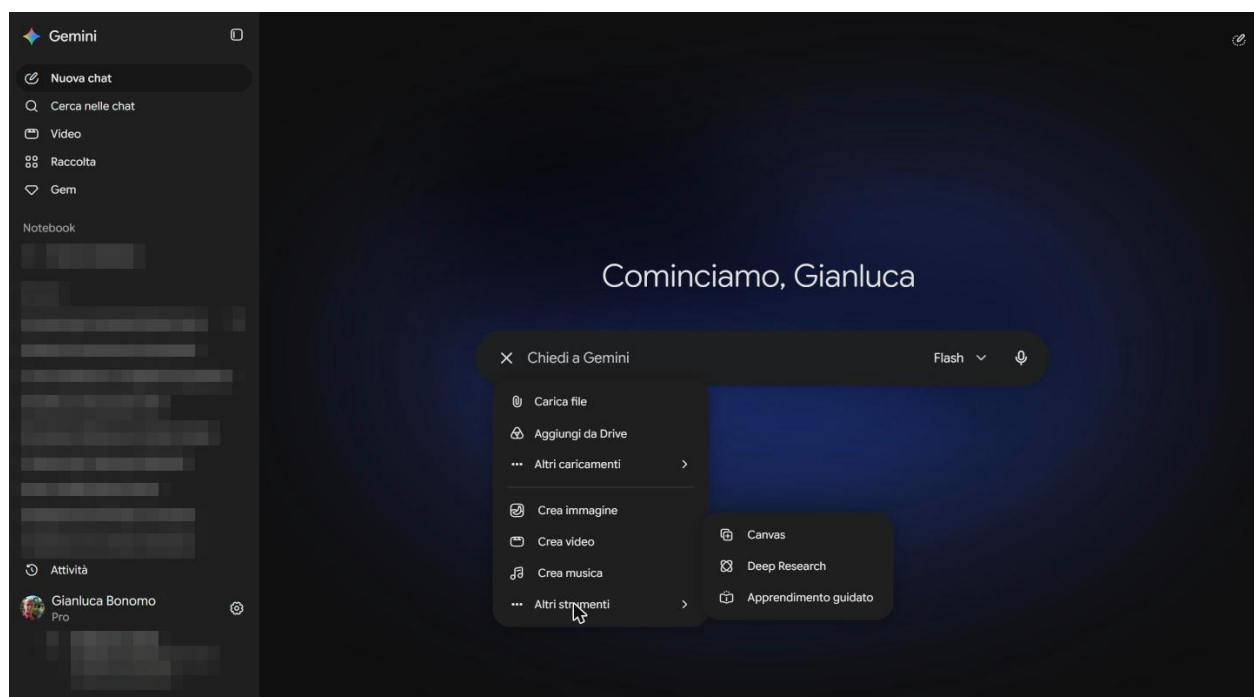
What you will be able to do

- Find Deep Research, Guided Learning and Canvas in the tools menu.
- Start an in-depth research job and judge the report.
- Use Guided Learning to learn a new subject, not just to get a summary.
- Create a document in Canvas, edit it and export it.

1. Where the tools are

A normal chat is a conversation. The tools are different instruments, one for each job.

Click the **+** button next to the writing box and then **Altri strumenti** (More tools): a second menu opens with **Canvas**, **Deep Research** and **Apprendimento guidato** (Guided learning).



The More tools menu with Canvas, Deep Research and Guided learning. Interface in Italian.

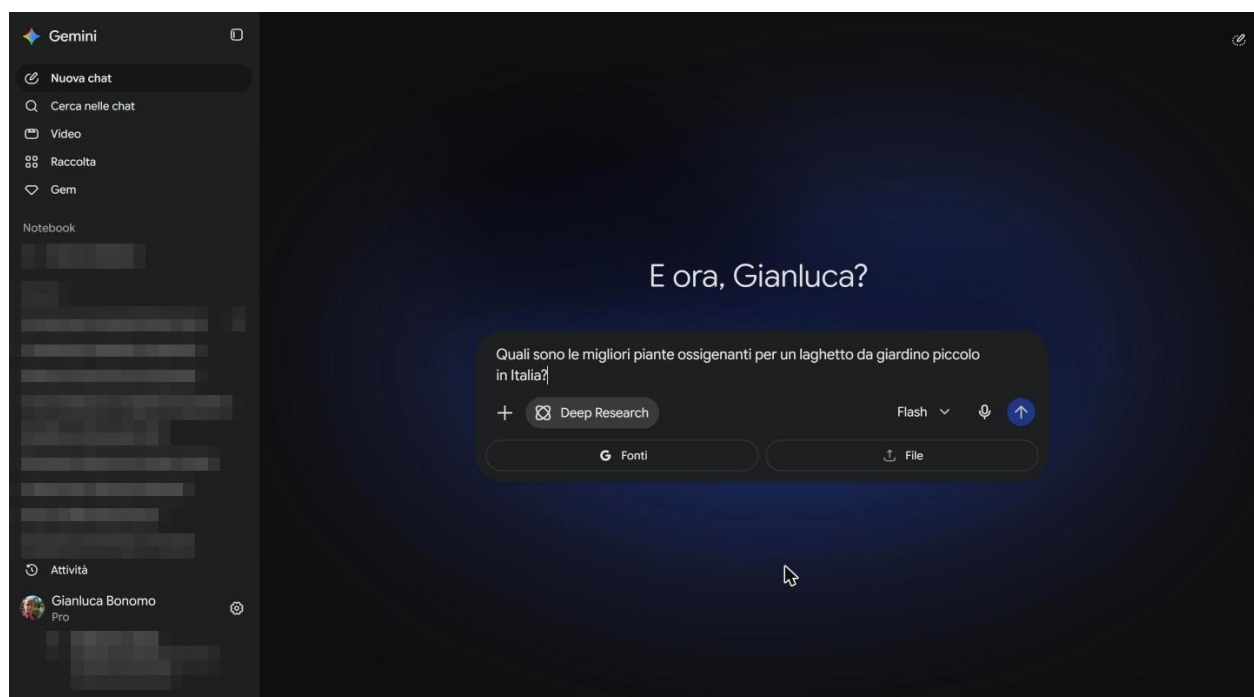
THE MENU CHANGES WITH THE WINDOW

Depending on the height of the browser window, Canvas sometimes appears inside More tools and sometimes directly in the main menu. Do not worry: the entries are always the same. I checked the menu on 7 October 2026.

When you pick a tool, a label appears in the box (for example **Deep Research**) and stays until you remove it. To go back to the normal chat just click the small cross.

2. Deep Research: the researcher who works for you

When you ask a normal question, Gemini answers in a few seconds with what it already knows. With **Deep Research** something else happens: Gemini prepares a **research plan**, reads many web pages, compares the information and in the end writes a complete **report**. Imagine sending a tireless assistant to the library and finding on your desk a write-up with the sources.



The Deep Research box: «Che cosa vuoi cercare?» (What do you want to search?), with the Fonti (Sources) and File buttons.

2.1 How to use it, step by step

1. From the tools menu choose **Deep Research**. The box changes and asks: «What do you want to search?».
2. With the **Fonti** (Sources) button choose where to search. Google says that by default there is web search, and apps such as Gmail, Drive and Notebook can be added. With **File** you can attach your own documents.
3. Write the question, with context and goal (use the four steps from lesson 3).
4. Gemini shows you a **plan**: you can edit it, then you start the research.
5. Wait. According to Google it usually takes five to ten minutes, more for complex topics. You can leave the chat and come back later.
6. Read the report, open the sources and, if you like, export it to Docs.

A SUITABLE QUESTION

«What are the best oxygenating plants for a small garden pond, in Italy? Compare at least five species and tell me which ones are easy to find in nurseries.»

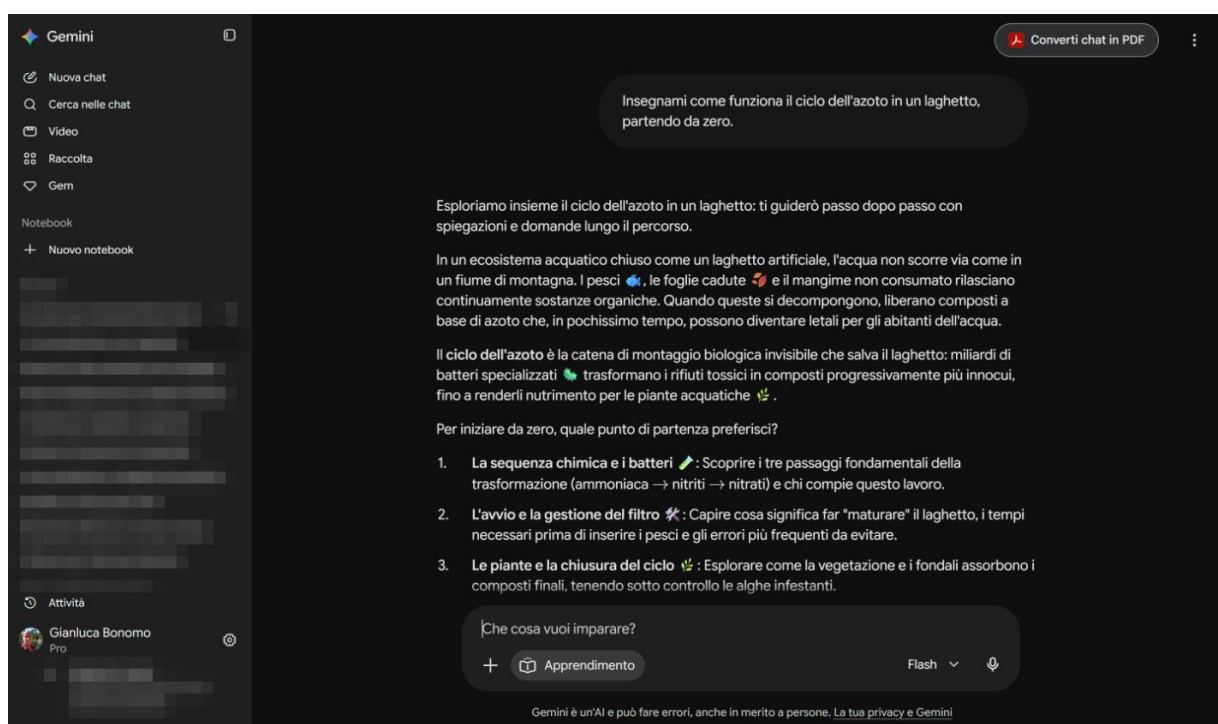
IT CAN GET STUCK

During my test for this course the research stayed «waiting», without showing the plan. It happens: if nothing happens after a few minutes, open a new chat and repeat the request. Keep in mind that Deep Research uses far more than a normal question: check the limits page now and then (lesson 1).

And remember the fourth step of the method: **verify**. The report looks like a degree thesis, but it is still a text written by an AI. Open at least two of the cited sources and check that they really say what the report claims.

3. Guided Learning: the teacher, not the encyclopaedia

There is a big difference between **getting an answer** and **learning**. An encyclopaedia gives you the answer; a good teacher asks questions, starts from what you know and takes you along step by step. **Guided learning** is the second thing.



Guided learning: instead of dumping everything, Gemini proposes three paths and asks where to start.

I wrote: «Teach me how the nitrogen cycle works in a pond, starting from zero». Gemini did not pour a lecture over me. It explained in a few lines why the problem exists (fish, fallen leaves and uneaten food release substances that become dangerous) and then asked

where I wanted to start, offering **three numbered paths**: the chemical sequence and the bacteria, starting up and managing the filter, the plants and closing the cycle.

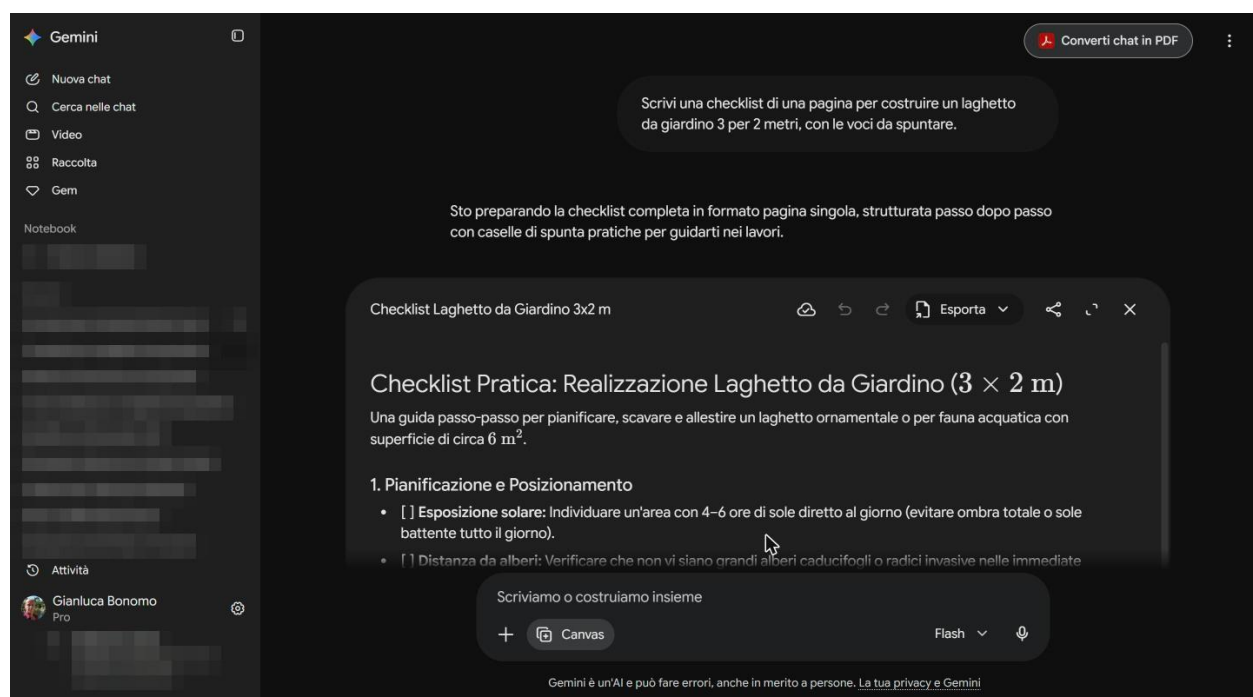
- In the box appears the label **Apprendimento** (Learning) and the question «Che cosa vuoi imparare?» (What do you want to learn?).
- Answer its questions: that is how it understands your level.
- You can ask at any moment: «Quiz me» or «Ask me three questions to see if I understood».
- It works for school subjects, for a hobby, for a new program to learn.

THE IDEA IN ONE LINE

With a normal chat you get answers. With Guided learning you build skill, one step at a time.

4. Canvas: the workbench next to the chat

Have you ever tried to polish a long text inside a chat? Every correction is a new message, and the text gets lost among the others. **Canvas** solves the problem: it opens a **worksheet next to the conversation**, where the document stays still and you edit it calmly.

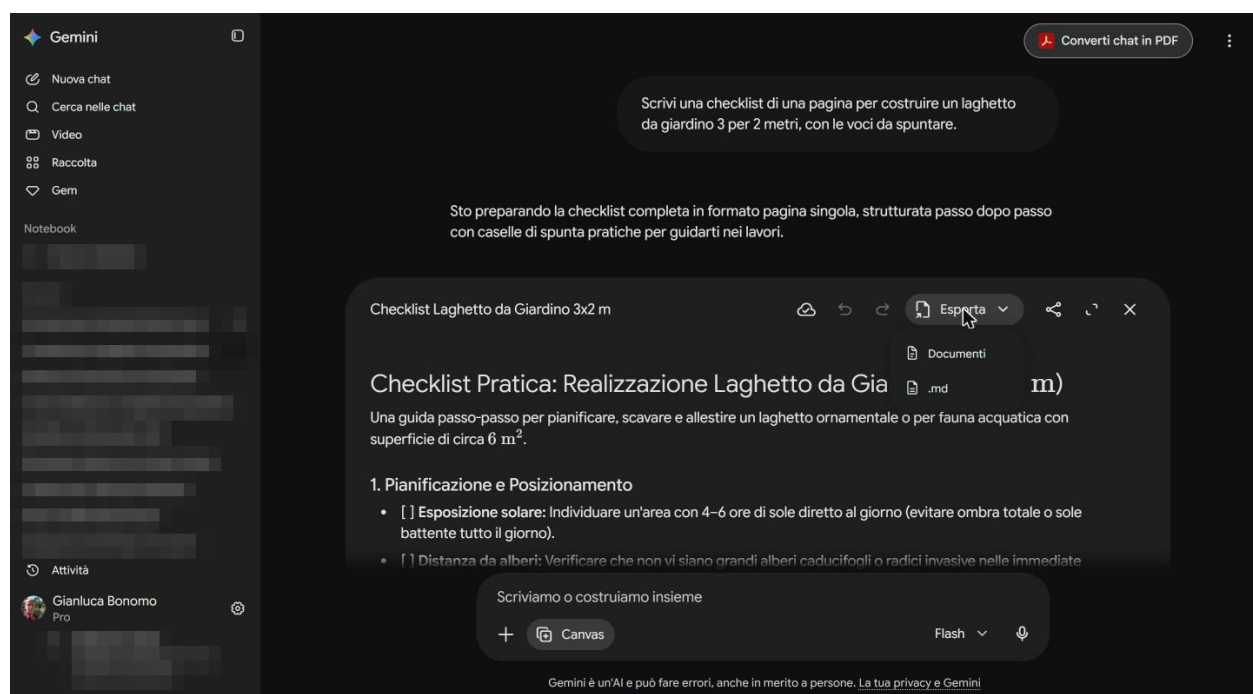


Canvas with the checklist to build a 3-by-2-metre pond, conversation on the left.

I chose Canvas and asked: «Write a one-page checklist to build a 3-by-2-metre garden pond, with items to tick». About ten seconds later the document was ready, with a title, a short introduction and numbered sections (planning and positioning, then the following phases).

4.1 What you can do in the sheet

- **Edit the text by hand**, as in an editor, or ask Gemini to change a piece (for example: «Make section 2 shorter»).
- **Undo and redo** changes with the arrows at the top.
- **Enlarge** the sheet to full screen or **share** it.
- **Export** the work with the **Esporta** (Export) button.



The Export button: the two choices are Documenti (Google Docs) and .md.

The two routes are **Documenti**, that is Google Docs in your Drive, handy if you then work with Word or with other people, and **.md**, a text file with simple formatting, which you see in programs such as advanced notepads. For a document to print or send by email, the first is almost always the right choice.

NOT ONLY TEXTS

According to Google, Canvas also works for code and small apps. In this course we use it for documents; for code we will see a more suitable tool, Antigravity, in lesson 10.

5. Which tool for which job

I need...	I use	Why
A quick answer or an idea	Normal chat	In a few seconds, without using much.
A report with sources on a broad topic	Deep Research	Makes a plan, reads many sites and writes the write-up.
To learn a subject from zero	Guided learning	Takes you along with questions and paths.
To write and polish a document	Canvas	The text stays still and you edit it calmly.
To work only on my own documents, with citations	Gemini Notebook	Answers only from your sources (lesson 9).

How to choose the right tool.

In practice a complete job can use them all, in sequence. For Marta's pond: **Deep Research** to choose the plants, **Guided learning** to understand the filter, **Canvas** to write the checklist and take it to Docs.

Hands-on exercise

Twenty-five minutes, three tools, one project.

1. Choose a topic you really care about (a hobby, a job, a trip).
2. Open Deep Research from the More tools menu and ask a question with context and goal. Let it work and, when it is ready, open two sources and check one fact.
3. Open a new chat with Guided learning and ask to be taught something on the same topic starting from zero. Answer its questions and at the end ask it to quiz you.
4. Open Canvas and ask for a checklist or a one-page sheet on the topic.
5. Edit one item by hand and ask Gemini to shorten a section.
6. Export the document to Docs and open it in your Drive.

WATCH OUT

Did you verify at least one source of the report?

Does the exported document open in Google Docs?

Questions that come up in class

How long does Deep Research take?

According to Google, usually five to ten minutes, more for complicated topics. You can leave the chat and come back later.

Can I trust the Deep Research report?

It is an excellent starting point, not a verdict. Open the cited sources and check the important data, especially numbers, regulations and prices.

Does Deep Research use much of my limits?

Yes, far more than a normal question. If you have a free plan, keep it for the research that really matters.

Is Guided learning a different model?

No: it is a mode, a different way to run the conversation, which uses Gemini's models.

Where does the document I create in Canvas end up?

It stays in the conversation. To have it as a file, use Export and choose Docs or .md.

Glossary

Term	What it means
Canvas	A worksheet next to the chat to create and polish documents.
Deep Research	The tool that prepares a research plan, reads many sources and writes a report.
Export	Taking a document out of Gemini, for example into Google Docs.
Guided learning	A mode in which Gemini teaches you step by step, with questions and paths.
Source	The page or document an item of information was taken from.

Further reading

Google, How Deep Research works in the Gemini app – help page consulted on 7 October 2026

Gemini on the web, tools menu, Canvas and Guided learning - author's tests and screenshots, 7 October 2026

WATCH OUT

Interface checked on 7 October 2026. The Deep Research timing is the one given by Google. The order of menu entries may change with the window size. Labels are shown in Italian as on screen, with an English gloss.