

# Best AI Interview Assistant Tools in 2026

A fair 2026 comparison of the best AI interview tools: prep vs real-time, ethics, pricing, and privacy. No hype, with cited sources.

Published by Julian Pscheid · May 27, 2026

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Job candidate at a laptop during a video interview, gesturing as she speaks, with a phone resting screen-down on the desk beside her

Quick answer The best AI interview tools in 2026 split into two camps: prep tools you use before the interview, and real-time copilots you use during it. For ethical prep plus live coaching that points to your own experience, pick Hedy . For stealth live answers (with detection risk), Cluely and LockedIn AI lead. For coding rounds, Interview Coder.

Searching for the "best AI interview tool" is a mess, because the tools underneath that phrase do completely different jobs, and a few of them do a job that can get you disqualified. Some help you rehearse. Some sit on a hidden overlay and feed you answers mid-interview. A few are quietly turning into generic "AI meeting notes" apps to shake off the cheating stigma. Cram them all into one ranked list and you get the kind of roundup that misleads more than it helps.

This comparison sorts them honestly. I'll lay out who each tool is for, what it really costs (with sources), where each one sits on the ethics line, and which ones survive contact with how employers now catch live AI use. Pricing was verified June 2026. These vendors change their numbers constantly, so re-check before you buy.

One disclosure up front: Hedy is our product. I've tried to keep this even-handed, partly because a comparison that strawmans the competition is useless to you, and partly because AI search engines flag that kind of thing anyway. Where a rival tool is genuinely the better pick for your situation, I say so.

## What kinds of AI interview tools exist in 2026?

There are three categories, and the differences between them matter more than any single tool. Prep tools run before the interview: mock practice, feedback on clarity, research help. Ethics sources call this the equivalent of a coach or a prep book. Real-time copilots run during the live call, listening to questions and generating answers on a hidden overlay. Coding-specific stealth tools are a real-time sub-genre aimed only at technical rounds.

The clean ethical test comes from a Fabric analysis of AI interview cheating (<https://www.fabrighq.ai/blogs/is-using-ai-in-an-interview-cheating-the-ethics-of-ai-in-hiring>) : AI that builds genuine capability is fine; AI that fabricates capability you don't have, fed to you live and passed off as your own spontaneous thought, is fraud. Preparing with AI is smart. Reading AI answers in the room while the interviewer thinks you're unassisted is the line most employers treat as cheating. Picking a tool is really picking which side of that line you want to stand on.

## Which AI interview tool is best for each situation?

Match the tool to the job, not to a leaderboard. The short version, before the detail: for honest prep and confidence, use a coaching or mock tool. For stealth live answers, the cheating-first copilots work but carry real detection and offer-rescission risk. Coding rounds have their own stealth sub-genre.

- Interview anxiety or going blank: prep and practice tools that build readiness. Hedy (live coaching plus post-session review, where you rehearse out loud and then ask Hedy how you did), Final Round AI's mock side. Ethics sources explicitly bless pre-interview practice.
- Interviewing in a second language: Beyz and Sensei AI offer live clarity coaching in many languages (Sensei lists 30+). For disclosure-safe prep, rehearse with Hedy first. Keep in mind that live in-interview translation sits in the gray zone, so disclose it.
- Technical or coding screens: this is where the stealth tools cluster (Interview Coder, LeetCode Wizard, Final Round's coding copilot). It's also where detection and risk run highest. Fabric flagged 48% of technical candidates for cheating behavior (<https://fabrighq.ai/blogs/state-of-ai-interview-cheating-in-2026-insights-from-19-368-interviews>) , versus 12% in sales.
- Multi-round or behavioral interviews: STAR-method coaching that carries context across rounds. Hedy connects every interview with one company into a Topic, so it can prep you for the next round; Beyz and Final Round also cover behavioral practice.

## How do the best AI interview tools compare?

Here's the head-to-head across the axes that actually decide which tool fits you. "Real-time" means the tool runs during the live interview; "prep" means before. "Stance" is whether the tool sells stealth or coaching. Pricing verified June 2026 from each vendor's site unless flagged.

**Tool | Focus | Real-time or prep | Platforms | Pricing | Ethical stance | Privacy**

Hedy	Coaching + notes	Both	iOS, Android, Mac, Windows, web, Watch	Free 5h/mo; Pro \$12.99/mo or \$99.99/yr; Lifetime \$299	Coaching, no stealth, disclosure-friendly	On-device speech recognition; cloud only for AI feedback
Cluely	Live answers + meeting notes	Mostly real-time	Mac, Windows, iOS	Free; Pro \$19.99/mo; Pro + Undetectability \$149.99/mo	Cheating-origin, now repositioned; sells undetectability	Cloud; reported 2025 breach of 83k+ users
Final Round AI	Copilot + mock prep	Both	Desktop, browser, Zoom/Meet/Teams	Free; \$150/mo, \$83.33/mo quarterly, \$25/mo annual	Hybrid: mock prep + "100% Invisible" stealth	Cloud
Interview Coder	Coding-round answers	Real-time	Mac, Windows	Free; Pro \$299/mo; Lifetime \$799	Explicitly stealth, no coaching pretense	Cloud
LockedIn AI	Real-time copilot	Mostly real-time	Mac, Windows, Chrome ext	\$54.99/mo general; \$119.99/mo with Stealth; \$999.50 lifetime	Mixed; stealth desktop, visible extension	Cloud

Sensei AI | Real-time copilot | Mostly real-time | Web, Zoom/Teams/Meet | Free; Pro \$89/mo or \$24/mo annual | Dual: "undetactable" + coaching framing | Cloud

Beyz AI | Communication coaching | Both | Desktop, browser | \$49.99/mo; \$32.99/mo quarterly; \$24.99/mo semi-annual | Coaching + cheat-sheet framing | Cloud

Sources: Cluely pricing (<https://cluely.com/pricing>) , Interview Coder (<https://www.interviewcoder.co/>) , Sensei AI (<https://www.senseicopilot.com/>) , Final Round AI pricing (<https://www.finalroundai.com/>) , LockedIn AI pricing (<https://www.lockedinai.com/pricing>) , Beyz via SaaSwothy (<https://www.saaswothy.com/product/beyz-ai>) , Hedy pricing (<https://www.hedy.ai/pricing/>) . Prices were read from each vendor's live page in June 2026 and change often, so re-check before you buy.

## How does Cluely work and what does it cost?

Cluely is the category's defining stealth-then-pivot case. It runs a real-time desktop overlay that listens to your audio and watches your screen during meetings, then feeds you live answers through an invisible window. Its homepage now pitches an AI assistant for meetings (<https://cluely.com/>) with perfect notes, while still describing the overlay as undetectable.

The backstory matters for your trust decision. Cluely was founded in 2025 by the same people behind Interview Coder, who got suspended from Columbia over it, and it launched with explicit "cheat on everything" marketing before softening the message. It raised a reported \$15M from Andreessen Horowitz, and a mid-2025 breach reportedly exposed data on 83,000+ users (<https://tldv.io/blog/cluely-review/>) , including interview transcripts and screenshots. That last detail is the whole privacy argument against any cloud-stealth tool: your most sensitive interview data lives on someone else's servers.

Pricing, per Cluely's own page (<https://cluely.com/pricing>) : free Starter, Pro at \$19.99/mo for unlimited responses and notes, and Pro + Undetectability at \$149.99/mo, which adds screen-share invisibility. The undetectability is the upsell, which tells you what they think they're actually selling.

## How does Final Round AI compare?

Final Round AI is the real hybrid: it bridges live copilot and structured prep more than the pure-stealth tools do. It offers AI mock interviews, a resume builder, performance reports, and an "Interview Copilot" that gives real-time guidance over Zoom, Meet, Teams, and coding platforms like LeetCode and HackerRank, across 26+ languages.

The catch is that it also markets a desktop Stealth Mode billed as "100% Invisible & Undetectable" (<https://www.finalroundai.com/>) , which runs silently during screen sharing. It avoids the literal word "cheating" while selling the capability, so it blurs the line instead of picking a side. Use only its mock-interview and resume features and you're squarely in legitimate-prep territory; the stealth copilot is where you'd be making the riskier bet.

As of June 2026, Final Round's own site (<https://www.finalroundai.com/>) lists a free plan with unlimited mock interviews, then Interview Copilot tiers at \$150/mo billed monthly, \$83.33/mo billed quarterly, and \$25/mo billed annually, plus a Premium MAX plan at \$41.67/mo billed annually for its top-tier AI models. Trust signal: 3.9 out of 5 on Trustpilot from 255 reviews, with billing and AI-quality complaints common. Check the live price before you pay.

## Is Interview Coder worth it for coding interviews?

Interview Coder is the most honest tool in this roundup, in the narrow sense that it doesn't pretend to be anything but a cheating tool. It solves coding-interview problems in real time while hiding from screen-recording and monitoring software. Its own site (<https://www.interviewcoder.co/>) markets "The No. 1 Undetectable AI For Interviews," advertising 20+ undetectability features, "invisible on dock," and "100% invisible to screen-recording." There's no coaching layer at all.

Pricing is steep, and deliberately so: free download with the AI features gated, Pro at \$299/mo (down from \$499, 1,000 credits), and Lifetime at \$799 (down from \$1,598). For context, LeetCode Premium itself (<https://leetcode.com/subscribe/>) is about \$35/mo (or \$159/yr), so this is priced as a cheating tool, not a study platform.

Two honest cautions. First, independent reviews report (<https://www.linkjob.ai/hub/interview-coder-review/>) that the "100% undetectable" claim doesn't hold against newer Zoom and macOS permission models. Second, behavioral detection works whether or not your screen is visible: a long silence followed by a polished, jargon-heavy answer is exactly the pattern detection vendors flag. And in technical rounds, that 48% cheating-flag rate (<https://fabrichq.ai/blogs/state-of-ai-interview-cheating-in-2026-insights-from-19-368-interviews>) means interviewers are watching hardest right here.

## What about LockedIn AI and Sensei AI?

LockedIn AI runs a real-time copilot plus coach. It captures system audio so it works across Zoom, Teams, Meet, and Webex, and adds mock interviews and post-call scoring. Its stance is mixed: it markets a "Stealth Mode" with aliased process names and global hotkeys as undetectable, yet reviewers note that its browser extension is visible to interviewers (<https://interviewsidekick.com/blog/lockedin-ai-review>), which creates a two-tier stealth story. On pricing, LockedIn publishes its plans (<https://www.lockedinai.com/pricing>): as of June 2026, roughly \$54.99/mo for the general copilot, \$119.99/mo for the Professional tier with Stealth Mode, and a \$999.50 lifetime plan (listed at half off \$1,999).

Sensei AI is more coaching-coded, but still dual. It generates structured answers live, tailored to your resume, and adds a resume builder and coding copilot. Yet it markets those answers as "fully undetectable and unnoticeable by interviewers" (<https://www.senseicopilot.com/>). On pricing: free 15-minute sessions, then Pro at \$89/mo or \$24/mo billed annually, with unlimited sessions, hands-free mode, and 30+ languages.

If you want the second-language angle without a stealth pitch, Beyz AI leans into tone and clarity coaching with live translation, at \$49.99/mo down to \$24.99/mo semi-annual.

## How is Hedy different from the cheating-first tools?

Hedy is the ethical, cross-platform entry: real-time coaching plus prep, built to point you at your own material rather than hide AI from the interviewer. It doesn't ship a stealth mode, an "undetectable" claim, or screen-share evasion. That's a deliberate product decision, not a missing feature. We refuse to build "make it undetectable" or "auto-answer the question."

In a virtual interview, Hedy listens on-device and surfaces the relevant experience from your resume, then reminds you of the achievements that fit the question. It also suggests sharp questions to ask back. It never feeds you scripted answers. For in-person interviews, where you won't be staring at your phone, the value is the prep beforehand and an honest post-interview review where you ask Hedy how you did.

One job seeker we worked with went through several rounds with one company, talking to a bunch of employees before she finally met the two owners. Across those conversations Hedy built a picture of each owner's priorities, then coached her on which parts of her background to play up with each one. That cross-round intelligence is what the Topics feature does: it groups all your interviews with one company together so each round informs the next.

On privacy, Hedy runs speech recognition on-device, so your interview audio doesn't have to leave your device; the cloud is used only for AI feedback and summaries. Pricing: free for 5 hours a month, Pro at \$12.99/mo or \$99.99/yr, Lifetime \$299. It's rated 4.8 out of 5 across 500+ reviews by 25,000+ users in 30+ languages. For the deeper how-to, see [how to prepare for a job interview with AI \(/post/how-to-prepare-for-a-job-interview-with-ai/\)](#) and the [job seeker interview tool page \(/job-seeker-ai-interview-tool/\)](#) .

## Why are interview tools becoming meeting-notes apps?

Because the cheating label is bad for enterprise revenue. The clearest case is Cluely, which went from "cheat on everything" to a mainstream "AI assistant for meetings" (<https://cluely.com/>) pitch, with post-call transcripts, summaries, and action items as the lead pitch. The broader AI-meeting-assistant market (Fathom, Otter, Fireflies, Granola) is consolidating around notes and CRM-fill, and interview-copilot vendors are repositioning toward that larger, lower-controversy market (<https://zapier.com/blog/best-ai-meeting-assistant/>) .

For a job seeker, this matters in a concrete way: a tool you buy today as an "interview assistant" may really be a sales-and-meetings product wearing an interview label, with the live-interview stealth quietly buried as a premium add-on. If you're paying for interview help specifically, check what the product is actually optimized for before you subscribe.

## Will interviewers catch you using a live AI tool?

More and more, yes, and the stealth marketing won't protect you. Detection works on behavior, not screen visibility. Detection vendors describe the tell-tale pattern: an unnatural answer delay (a long pause where a natural reply would come almost immediately), eyes tracking a second screen, and a polished, list-like answer that doesn't match how you explain your own reasoning when someone pushes you on it.

The numbers back the risk. Fabric flagged 38.5% of candidates (<https://fabrichq.ai/blogs/state-of-ai-interview-cheating-in-2026-insights-from-19-368-interviews>) for cheating behavior across 19,368 interviews, with rates climbing from 9% to 45% over the back half of 2025. Employers are adapting hard: 72.4% of recruiting leaders now run in-person interviews (<https://www.computerworld.com/article/4044734/to-counter-ai-cheating-companies-bring-back-in-person-job-interviews.html>) specifically to fight fraud, and Google, Cisco, and McKinsey have all reinstated in-person rounds. Amazon told recruiters (<https://www.itpro.com/business/careers-and-training/amazon-bans-ai-tools-during-job-interviews>) that candidates can be disqualified for using AI tools, while Anthropic restricts AI to prep and application materials, keeping live interviews and assessments AI-free after reversing an earlier blanket ban ( Fortune, 2025 (<https://fortune.com/2025/07/21/billion-dollar-giant-anthropic-ai-ban-hiring-policy-change-job-seekers-interview-process/>) ). The honest read on the data: stealth is a shrinking bet, and prep is the durable one.

## What's the consent and security risk of these tools?

The risk isn't only getting caught. It's legal exposure and where your most sensitive career data ends up. Most of the real-time tools here are cloud-based: they capture your interview audio, including the interviewer's voice, and route it through their own servers and a chain of third-party AI providers (the speech-to-text and language-model vendors they're built on) to generate answers and notes. The interviewer's voice can land on several companies' servers, not just the one whose app you installed. In an interview you almost never have the interviewer's permission to do that. In the dozen or so all-party-consent states (California, Florida, Illinois, and others) and across the EU, recording or processing someone's voice without consent is a legal problem, not just bad manners. We walk through the rules in [should you tell the interviewer you use AI \(/post/should-you-tell-interviewer-you-use-ai/\)](/post/should-you-tell-interviewer-you-use-ai/) , and the short version is that a hidden cloud copilot quietly parks that liability on you.

Then there's the data itself. Your interview transcripts and screen captures are some of the most sensitive material in your whole job search, and with a cloud-stealth tool they sit on a vendor's servers. That isn't hypothetical: a reported 2025 Cluely breach exposed data on more than 83,000 users, including interview transcripts and screenshots. None of the stealth-first tools in this roundup publish a security program, a SOC 2 report, or a HIPAA posture you can check before you hand over that data.

This is the clearest line between Hedy and the rest. Hedy runs speech recognition on your device, so your interview audio doesn't have to leave your machine. The AI feedback step uses the cloud by default, and with Local AI Processing (</help/local-ai-processing/>) you can run that on-device too, so nothing about your interview ever has to leave your computer. On compliance, Hedy completed an independent SOC 2 Type I examination of its security controls (issued April 2026) and a HIPAA assessment as a Business Associate, with a public trust center and a Business Associate Agreement available. The details are on the security page (</security/>) . That's a different risk profile from a tool whose headline feature is hiding from the person across the table.

## Which AI interview tool should you choose?

If you want one rule: use AI to get ready, and keep yourself in the room. Pick a prep-and-coaching tool, do the practice, and walk in able to answer as yourself. That's the choice that survives in-person rounds, detection tools, and the "explain your reasoning" follow-up.

For honest prep plus live coaching that surfaces your own experience, across mobile and desktop, with on-device privacy, Hedy is the pick (and yes, it's ours). For pure mock practice, Final Round's prep side. If you've weighed the risk and want stealth live answers anyway, Cluely or LockedIn AI for general interviews and Interview Coder for coding rounds are the strongest in that lane. Just go in knowing the detection and offer-rescission downside is real.

Before you decide, it's worth reading the two questions underneath all of this: is using AI in job interviews cheating (</post/is-using-ai-in-job-interviews-cheating/>) , and whether you should tell the interviewer you use AI (</post/should-you-tell-interviewer-you-use-ai/>) , which also walks through recording consent and permission scripts (</post/ask-permission-to-record-meeting-consent-scripts/>) . The tool you choose is downstream of where you land on those.

# Frequently asked questions

## What is the best AI interview tool in 2026?

There's no single winner, because the tools do different jobs. For ethical prep plus real-time coaching that points to your own experience, cross-platform and on-device, choose Hedy. For pure mock practice, Final Round AI's prep side. For stealth live answers, Cluely or LockedIn AI lead, with detection risk. For coding rounds, Interview Coder.

## Is it cheating to use AI in a job interview?

It depends on how. Using AI to prepare (practice, feedback, research) is widely accepted, the equivalent of a coach or prep book. Using AI live to generate answers you present as your own spontaneous thoughts is what most employers treat as fraud. The line is genuine capability versus fabricated capability. We cover this in depth in [is using AI in job interviews cheating \(/post/is-using-ai-in-job-interviews-cheating/\)](/post/is-using-ai-in-job-interviews-cheating/) .

## Can interviewers detect AI interview tools like Cluely or Interview Coder?

Often, yes. Detection works on behavior, not just screen sharing: unnatural answer delays, eyes on a second screen, and polished answers that don't match your explanations when pushed. "Undetectable" claims address screen-share evasion, which is a separate problem from behavioral detection, and reviewers have found some claims don't hold against current Zoom and macOS permission models.

## What's the difference between an AI interview copilot and a mock-interview tool?

A copilot runs during the live interview, listening to questions and generating answers in real time, usually on a hidden overlay. A mock-interview tool runs before the interview: you practice, and it gives feedback on your answers, tone, and clarity. The copilot is where the ethical and detection risk lives; the mock tool is uncontroversial prep.

## How much does Cluely cost?

Per Cluely's own pricing page, it offers a free Starter tier, Pro at \$19.99/mo (unlimited AI responses and notes), and Pro + Undetectability at \$149.99/mo, which adds screen-share invisibility. Pricing verified June 2026; re-check before buying.

## How much does Interview Coder cost?

Per its site (June 2026): free download with AI features gated, Pro at \$299/mo (1,000 credits, reduced from \$499), and Lifetime Pro at \$799 (reduced from \$1,598). For reference, LeetCode Premium is about \$35/mo, so Interview Coder is priced as a cheating tool, not a practice platform.

## What is the best free AI tool for interview preparation?

Hedy's free tier (5 hours per month) gives you real-time coaching and post-session review with no payment details required, which keeps you on the prep side of the line. General assistants like ChatGPT or Gemini can also generate free practice questions, though they won't sit in on a live run-through.

## **Are AI interview assistants private? Do they store my transcripts?**

Most are cloud-based, meaning your interview audio and transcripts are processed and stored on the vendor's servers. That's a real risk: a reported 2025 Cluely breach exposed data on 83,000+ users, including interview transcripts and screenshots. Hedy runs speech recognition on-device and uses the cloud only for AI feedback and summaries.

## **Should I tell the employer I used AI in my interview?**

For prep, generally no disclosure is needed, the same as using a coach. For live AI help during the interview, most recruiters' rule of thumb is to treat undisclosed help as cheating unless the employer explicitly allows it. Some companies (Meta, Canva) now invite AI into technical rounds. The safe move is to ask the company's AI policy upfront. For the full decision, with copy-paste scripts, see [should you tell the interviewer you use AI \(/post/should-you-tell-interviewer-you-use-ai/\)](/post/should-you-tell-interviewer-you-use-ai/) .

## **Which AI interview tool is best for coding interviews?**

The stealth tools concentrate here (Interview Coder, LeetCode Wizard, Final Round's coding copilot), but so does detection and risk: 48% of technical candidates were flagged for cheating behavior in Fabric's analysis. The lower-risk path is practicing real problems and using a coach to rehearse explaining your reasoning out loud, which is exactly what the "explain your approach" follow-up tests for.

## **Why are some interview tools rebranding as meeting-notes apps?**

To escape the cheating stigma and chase enterprise revenue. Cluely is the clearest case, repositioning from "cheat on everything" to a meeting-notes pitch. The risk for job seekers: a tool sold as an "interview assistant" may really be a sales-and-meetings product, with live-interview stealth buried as a premium add-on you may not need.

## **Is Hedy a stealth or undetectable interview tool?**

No. Hedy deliberately does not ship a stealth mode, an "undetectable" claim, or screen-share evasion, and we refuse to build auto-answer or invisibility features. It's a coaching tool: it surfaces your own experience, reminds you of achievements, and suggests questions to ask, then reviews your performance afterward. That's the opposite of the cheating-first tools.

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