

NotebookLM and Gemini Quickstart Guide

<https://gemini.google.com/share/1b9690cfb2dd>

This quickstart guide covers the 2026 integration between **NotebookLM** and **Gemini**. This synergy allows you to use NotebookLM as a curated "knowledge brain" and Gemini as the "creative engine" that can access those private notes to draft content, build apps, or perform deep research.

1. The NotebookLM Interface: A 3-Pane Overview

NotebookLM is designed for "grounded" AI—meaning it only knows what you tell it. Its interface is split into three main functional areas:

Area	Component	Purpose
Left Pane	Sources	Manage your library. Upload PDFs, YouTube links, Google Docs, or URLs. You can toggle specific sources on/off to focus the AI's attention.
Middle Pane	Chat & Notes	The workspace where you ask questions. Responses include inline citations (clickable numbers) that highlight the exact text in your sources.
Right Pane	The Studio	The "creation" hub. Here you generate Audio Overviews (podcasts), Slide Decks, Study Guides, and Comparison Tables.

2. Setting Up Your "Brain" (NotebookLM)

Before connecting to Gemini, you must build your source base.

1. **Create a Notebook:** Visit notebooklm.google.com.
2. **Add Sources:** Click the **(+) Add Source** button.
 - *New for 2026:* You can now import **YouTube transcripts** and **public web searches** directly into your index.
3. **Verify Grounding:** Ask a test question in the chat. Ensure the AI uses your sources (look for the citation chips).

3. Connecting NotebookLM to Gemini

The real power comes from letting the standard Gemini app "reach into" your Notebooks.

1. **Open Gemini:** Go to gemini.google.com or use the Gemini mobile app.
2. **Attach Your Notebook:**
 - In the message box, click the **(+) Attachment** icon.
 - Select **NotebookLM** from the menu.
 - Choose the specific notebook (e.g., "Market Research 2026") you want Gemini to reference.
3. **Prompt with Context:** You can now ask: *"Based on my 'Market Research' notebook, draft a 5-slide presentation outline that compares our internal data with current 2026 trends you find on the web."*

4. Advanced 2026 Features

- **Interactive Audio:** In the NotebookLM **Studio**, generate an "Audio Overview." You can now click **"Join"** to interrupt the AI hosts and ask them to explain a specific point further using your microphone.
 - **Cross-Tool Workflow:** Use NotebookLM to extract precise facts from 50+ documents, then use the Gemini integration to turn those facts into a **Gemini Gem** (a custom bot) tailored for your specific project.
 - **Deep Research:** Toggle "Deep Research" in the Source panel to let the AI browse the web and automatically import high-quality sources into your notebook for you.
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