



GradeLens **AI**

QUICK START

Getting Started Guide

Build 84 free alpha | Updated September 7, 2026 | iPhone and Cloud Vault

GradeLens turns guided iPhone photos into an evidence-backed opinion of a card's visible condition. This guide takes you from sign-in to your first saved report.

IMPORTANT: GradeLens provides an image-based condition opinion. It is not a grading-company certification, a guarantee of the grade another company will assign, a physical authentication, or an appraisal.

EVIDENCE FIRST / HONEST LIMITS / BETTER DECISIONS

1. Before your first scan

What you need

- A compatible iPhone with GradeLens installed through TestFlight.
- Internet access for sign-in, analysis, Cloud Vault backup, and the companion site.
- Your Apple Account for the private GradeLens account.
- A clean camera lens.
- A flat, matte background that contrasts with the card.
- Soft, even room light. Avoid flash, harsh spotlights, and direct reflections.
- A few uninterrupted minutes, especially for a six-photo Precision Scan.

Prepare the card safely

First install Apple's TestFlight app, then open [the GradeLens invitation](#) on your iPhone. Availability depends on Apple review and the initial 25-person capacity. If unavailable, wait for our announcement. Existing testers should update without uninstalling, then check their Vault. Use your own Apple account, not reviewer credentials.

- 1 Place the card flat on the matte background.
- 2 Keep hands, paper edges, mats, holders, and other objects outside the camera guide.
- 3 Remove reflective protection only when it is safe. Sleeves and top loaders can conceal wear, but protecting the card is more important than completing a scan.
- 4 Make sure every physical edge and corner can be seen.

BEST PRACTICE: Use the rear camera, keep the phone parallel to the card, and move the light rather than tilting the phone.

2. Connect your private account

- 1 Open GradeLens and select **Account** in the bottom navigation.
- 2 Select **Continue with Apple**.
- 3 Complete Apple's sign-in sheet.
- 4 Confirm the Account card says **Cloud Vault | Automatic Sync On**.

New analysis requires a verified GradeLens account. Existing reports stored on the iPhone remain readable after sign-out. Signing out does not erase local reports.

If you intentionally need to clear the phone, use **Account > Remove local data from this iPhone**. That signs out and removes local reports, photos, drafts, exports, and device settings without deleting your GradeLens account. Confirmed Cloud Vault copies remain; unsynced and local-only reports do not.

If GradeLens finds completed reports from before account-bound Cloud Vault, it asks whether to **Import** them or **Keep only on this iPhone**. Nothing uploads before that explicit choice. The decision is remembered separately for each GradeLens account.

3. Choose the right scan

Scan	Photos	Use it for	Important limit
Quick Grade	2	Fast screening, lower-value cards, sorting a collection	Front and back flat-light photos cannot support an unqualified GradeLens 10.
Precision Scan	6	Valuable cards, submission decisions, foil or reflective cards, suspected misprints	Stronger visual evidence, but still not a certified grade or physical measurement.

For a suspected misprint or factory error, choose **Precision Scan** whenever possible.

Start the scan

- 1 Select **Scan**.
- 2 Choose **Quick Grade** or **Precision**.
- 3 Choose **Sports** or **TCG**.
- 4 Enter the card identity: player or character, year, set, and card number. Include the parallel, language, autograph, or print run when applicable.
- 5 If something looks like a misprint, turn on **I suspect a misprint or factory error** and describe what looks unusual and where it appears.
- 6 Select **Start quick grade** or **Start precision scan**.
- 7 Review the preparation checklist and select **Open guided camera**.

4. Capture defensible photos

For every view:

- 1 Choose **1x** or **2x** before framing. Use whichever keeps the complete card largest while every corner and edge remains visible.
- 2 Fit the physical card just inside the green guide. The guide should surround the card, not a white mat, paper, or holder.
- 3 Keep the phone square and steady. When the card is resting flat, use the advisory phone-level indicator to reduce pitch and roll; it does not replace checking that every physical border is inside the guide.
- 4 Wait for **Hold steady | keep all borders visible**.
- 5 Tap the shutter with **AUTO OFF**. Automatic capture is optional; use the AUTO switch beside the shutter if you want to enable it. Check every saved preview even when AUTO takes the photo.
- 6 Inspect the preview and quality readings.
- 7 Select **Use photo** only when the entire card is sharp and visible. Otherwise select **Retake**.

Precision order is front flat, front light from left, front light from right, then back flat, back light from left, and back light from right. You flip the card only once.

LIGHTING TIP: For directional views, leave the phone and card fixed. Move one light low to the requested side. This helps reveal scratches, dents, creases, and surface changes.

5. Review and analyze

After the final photo, GradeLens shows **Final Evidence Check**.

- Review every image.
- Retake any view marked weak, blurry, obstructed, or affected by glare.
- A weak image can be used only after an explicit warning; doing so may lower confidence or the maximum supported estimate.
- Select **Analyze photos** when the set is ready.

Keep GradeLens open while source photos are uploading and until the screen confirms **Evidence secured**. After the server accepts the durable grading job, processing continues if you browse the Vault or close GradeLens. Reopen the scan later to check the result; this build does not send a completion push notification. The percentage remains an estimate rather than provider-reported progress.

If analysis pauses:

- **Retake required views** means the evidence itself is insufficient.
- **Retry analysis** means the photos are saved and the service or network can be retried.
- **Refresh from Vault** means another device changed the dossier; load the newest version rather than overwriting it.

6. Read your first report

Begin with these four items:

- 1 **Condition estimate and evidence range** - the range the current photos support, not a promised slab grade.
- 2 **Evidence confidence** - how completely the photos support the estimate, not how good the card is.
- 3 **Next decision** - GradeLens's recommended action, such as upgrading to Precision, recapturing, verifying physically, or reviewing a possible production error.
- 4 **Key visible evidence** - the most important confirmed findings and any **Needs review** details that a second inspection could not confidently resolve.

Select **What does this rating mean?** for the 1-10 glossary. Open **Detailed Evidence** to inspect condition findings, exact source pixels, confidence factors, centering, factory-error treatment, alteration screening, recommended recaptures, and report limitations.

Never make a purchase or submission decision from the headline number alone.

Compare **Original**, **Monochrome**, **Contrast**, and **Inverted** views when inspecting a marked area. Filters are viewing aids, not proof of damage; they do not change the saved original. A high estimate or a green check does not prove that a corner is undamaged.

7. Vault, sync, companion, and sharing

Cloud Vault

New account-bound reports automatically reconcile while GradeLens is open, when it returns to the foreground, and during periodic foreground checks. Older unbound reports require the explicit Import choice described above. In **Vault** or **Account**, look for:

- **Cloud verified** - the current report has a server-confirmed private copy.
- **Waiting for backup** - the local report is safe and queued.
- **Synchronizing** - reconciliation is active.
- **Needs attention** - keep the app open, restore the connection, or select **Check now**.

Do not delete the app while investigating a missing or interrupted scan.

Companion site

- 1 Open **Account** in the iPhone app.
- 2 Select **Open web companion**.
- 3 The browser receives a short-lived, one-time handoff into the same Apple-linked Cloud Vault.

The companion provides the Vault, full report workspace, notes and ownership context, account controls, and market research. New photo capture intentionally remains iPhone-only.

Share a report

Open a report and select **Share**. Choose **Share one-page PDF** or **Share as text instead**. The PDF includes the primary card photo and safe report summary. It excludes private collector notes, account identity, other evidence photos, and market records.

First-scan checklist

- ☐ Build number recorded from Account.
- ☐ Signed in with Apple and Cloud Vault active.
- ☐ Correct card type and scan depth selected.
- ☐ Exact card identity entered.
- ☐ Lens clean; matte background; soft, even light.
- ☐ Every card edge and corner visible in every view.
- ☐ Weak views retaken at Final Evidence Check.
- ☐ Condition estimate read together with confidence, evidence, and limitations.
- ☐ Report reaches Cloud verified and appears in the companion.

For complete instructions, troubleshooting, privacy, and every report section, use the **GradeLens AI Complete User Guide**.

8. Free-alpha limits and feedback

You can attempt up to **3 Quick scans and 2 Precision scans per account per day**, subject to the shared daily service budget. Limits reset at **00:00 UTC** (8 p.m. Eastern during daylight saving time; 7 p.m. in winter). Each scan reserves two analysis passes, so attempt counters may count in pairs. Failed analysis may use your allowance; if the same scan fails twice, stop retrying and report it. Payments are off. A limit is not a request to buy credits.

Before scanning a test card, write down any damage you can see in person. Do not bend or damage a card to make a test. Compare that note with the result, then send useful feedback through TestFlight or support@dmcmgp.com:

- iPhone model, iOS version, and GradeLens build.
- Quick or Precision; manual or automatic capture.
- What you physically saw, what you expected, and what happened.
- Steps to repeat it, the scan confirmation, and a screenshot with personal details hidden.

Keep the original report and photos. Do not uninstall while investigating missing data. Never send passwords, access keys, or payment details.

The free alpha is still being tested and is not calibrated to professional grades. It is not authentication, an appraisal, or a guaranteed third-party grade.

Phone-friendly instructions and both PDFs: gradelens.ai/welcome.

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