WHICH EFFORT?

Effort is how hard Claude thinks before it answers: low, medium, high, extra high, max and ultra. More thinking is slower and costs more. Here's when it's worth it, from Broski Talk Ep. 2, *Elon Never Said That*.

THE VIRAL TIER LIST

S	Medium
A	Low
B	High
C	Extra high
F	Max and UltraCode

OUR VERDICT: IT'S A MEME.

One builder's opinion, 145K views on X. Mark runs medium for most work and extra high when it has to be great, about 50/50.

$26

High effort: one 25-second video, made in Episode 1.

$681

Ultra effort: the same video. It took almost 11 hours.

Medium

Our default for most tasks. Go higher only when it's needed.

Watch the tier list segment at 5:19: youtu.be/123eSh5vNbU?t=319

PAY FOR MORE EFFORT	SAVE YOUR USAGE
Planning something big	Quick answers and simple questions
Hard bugs the lower levels can't fix	Quick edits
Long jobs you won't be watching	Or let your setup pick the effort for you

WHY CLAUDE FINDS NEW BUGS EVERY TIME

Same question, different answer: it's non-deterministic. Like two editors on the same video, one catches the bad cut and the other catches the typo. Five ways to make its work reliable:

01 **Checkpoints.** The work has to pass a check before it moves on.

02 **Hard tests and limits.** Rules on what it's allowed to put out.

03 **Write your decisions down.** Developers call them ADRs. The AI stops re-arguing what you already decided.

04 **Review more than once.** Simon runs every code review at least twice.

05 **Use a hook, not a note.** A line in AGENTS.md can be skipped. A hook is enforced by the computer.

40 → 2 min

CI checks at Owen Gretzinger's startup, after agents fixed them.

11 min

How long each check waited for a machine. Now it starts in seconds.

$230 → $4,300

The monthly bill. "The cheapest money we spent."

Owen's 9-step guide, to give your coding agent: x.com/owengretzinger. Watch it at 13:36: youtu.be/123eSh5vNbU?t=816