For the next few moments, research amongst yourselves the answers to the following questions:

What is an API? ***A***pplication***p***rogram***i***nterface(**API**) is a set of [routines](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/R/routine.html), [protocols](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/P/protocol.html), and tools for building [software applications](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/A/application.html). An API specifies how software components should interact. Additionally, APIs are used when programming graphical user interface ([GUI](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/G/Graphical_User_Interface_GUI.html)) components. A good API makes it easier to develop a [program](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/P/program.html) by providing all the building blocks. A [programmer](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/P/programmer.html) then puts the blocks together.

What does API stand for? ***A***pplication***p***rogram***i***nterface

What are some examples of APIs? (Find links to specific APIs)

**Without API:**  
An app finds the current weather in London by opening <http://www.weather.com/> and reading the webpage like a human does, interpreting the content.

**With API:**  
An app finds the current weather in London by sending a message to the [weather.com](http://weather.com/" \t "_blank)API (in a structured format like JSON). The [weather.com](http://weather.com/) API then replies with a structured response.

What do these specific APIs allow you as a developer to do? It makes the app more robust, if weather.com changes, it will disrupt your app if you don’t use APIs