**Common Error Codes & Their Meaning**

**400 Bad Request**

* Indicates something wrong with your request itself—often payload formatting, invalid parameters, or disallowed content.
* Examples:
  + You used a model name incorrectly (e.g. "dall-e-3" instead of "dall-e-3", subtle typos matter).
  + The prompt contains disallowed or policy-violating content, triggering a "content\_policy\_violation" error.  
    [OpenAI Community](https://community.openai.com/t/dall-e-3-getting-content-policy-violation-error-for-a-simple-prompt/639082?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
  + Payload is malformed or missing required fields.  
    [Stack Overflow](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/76935858/getting-400-error-on-openai-image-generation-api-project?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**401 Unauthorized**

* Your request lacks a valid API key or the key is misconfigured.
* Common if your Authorization header is missing or the key has typos or no active billing.

**403 Forbidden**

* Occurs when your API key doesn’t have permission to access the DALL·E API.
* In some scenarios, you may get a 403 when downloading image URLs—especially using Azure-generated signed URLs.  
  [Microsoft Learn](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/answers/questions/2242713/dall-e-3-api-calls-returning-403-errors-intermitte?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**429 Too Many Requests**

* You’ve exceeded rate limits—either per minute or daily usage quotas.
* The OpenAI status docs explain that some servers return HTTP 429 with codes like **1015** when under high traffic.  
  [Bubble](https://forum.bubble.io/t/openai-dall-e-api-calls-error-http-429-error-code-1015/329530?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Other/Unknown (5xx errors)**

* Rare, but can happen due to internal service issues (e.g., a recent incident caused 500 errors in image pipeline)  
  [OpenAI Status](https://status.openai.com/incidents/01JVAMNVHAN1ZW2C6V8J04QSD5/write-up?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

**Quick Reference Table**

| **HTTP Status** | **Meaning** | **Common Cause** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **400** | Bad request — invalid parameters or content | Malformed request, policy violation |
| **401** | Unauthorized | Invalid or missing API key |
| **403** | Forbidden | No access or blocked resource |
| **429** | Rate limit exceeded | Too many API calls |
| **5xx** | Server issues | Temporary outage or bug |

**Best Practices for Handling DALL·E Errors**

1. **Log the full error message and status code** before failing, for debugging.
2. For **400 errors**, inspect the request—confirm model name, prompt, size, format.
3. For **403s**, ensure your API key is authorized for image generation and you're using the correct endpoint.
4. For **429s**, implement retry logic with exponential backoff.
5. For **500s**, perhaps show a user-friendly message and retry later.

Regarding prompts: https://chatgpt.com/s/t\_68a9f0c1fd9081918b2f4b9a974ef974