In order for an API to be considered RESTful, it has to conform to these criteria:

* A client-server architecture made up of clients, servers, and resources, with requests managed through HTTP.
* [Stateless](https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/cloud-native-apps/stateful-vs-stateless) client-server communication, meaning no client information is stored between get requests and each request is separate and unconnected.
* Cacheable data that streamlines client-server interactions.
* A uniform interface between components so that information is transferred in a standard form. This requires that:
  + resources requested are identifiable and separate from the representations sent to the client.
  + resources can be manipulated by the client via the representation they receive because the representation contains enough information to do so.
  + self-descriptive messages returned to the client have enough information to describe how the client should process it.
  + hypertext/hypermedia is available, meaning that after accessing a resource the client should be able to use hyperlinks to find all other currently available actions they can take.
* A layered system that organizes each type of server (those responsible for security, load-balancing, etc.) involved the retrieval of requested information into hierarchies, invisible to the client.
* Code-on-demand (optional): the ability to send executable code from the server to the client when requested, extending client functionality.