API vs. Library

If a running code wants to talk with another running code, it needs an Application programming interface (API).

And since a library refers to a chunk of running codes that are designed to be reused during development, an API is the method or means by which these running codes interact with each other.

An API can be thought of as the logical representation of what is in the library, or the consistent format that explains what a developer can do with the library.

It is the part of the code that is accessible to programmers. The main difference is that the library refers to the code itself, while API refers to the interface.

When a complete set of software development tools for a specific platform are brought together as one kit, this is what is referred to an [SDK (Software Development Kit)](https://rapidapi.com/blog/api-vs-sdk/).

An API can be made of several libraries to complete a particular action. Yet, a library by itself is not an API but rather a collection of useful techniques or functions.

In the same line, we can also introduce a framework, which is an existing foundation that makes creating applications more efficient.