

Types of APIs

Quiz #1: What Are APIs?

Introducing Postman

An API Platform

The API First World

Quiz #2 Introducing Postman

Your First API Request

Task: Create a workspace

Task: Create a collection

Task: Get books from the Library API

Request-Response pattern

Quiz #3: Your First API Request

Request Parameters

Variables in Postman

Query parameters

Task: Search books by genre

Task: Multiple query parameters

Path Variable

Task: Get a book by id

Quiz #4: Query vs. path parameters

Sending data with POST

Task: Add a book

Task: Add an authorization header

Task: Use Postman Auth instead!

Quiz #5: Sending Data With Postman

Introduction to variables and environment variables

Get Help

Open Postman

Variables in Postman

Postman allows you to save values as **variables** to reuse them and easily hide sensitive information like API Keys.

We will use a variable to replace our base URL so that we don't have to type that repeatedly. Once a variable is defined, you can access its value using double curly brace syntax like this: **{{variableName}}**

Set the "baseUrl" variable

In Postman, you can quickly create a variable by selecting text. Below the video is a step-by-step breakdown of how to set your variable.

1. Go to the **"get books"** request in your collection.

2. With your cursor, select the entire base URL of the API (**https://library-api.postmanlabs.com**). **Do not include the slash / after .com**.

Click **"Set as variable"** to save the base URL to a variable.

Postman Library API v2 / get books

Set as variable

...

GET

https://library-api.postmanlabs.com/books

Params

Authorization

Headers (8)

Body

Pre-re

Query Params

KEY

Key

3. Click "Set as a new variable".

Postman Library API v2 / get books

GET

https://library-api.postmanlabs.com/books

Params

Autho

Query Params

KEY

search

Key

Body

Cookies

Hea

Pretty

Raw

1

{

2

"id": "dfb88c0a-7631-4bcb-9766-8663511555c0"

3

}

4. Name your new variable **"baseUrl"** and select **"Collection"** as the scope, then click **Set variable**.

Set as new variable

Name

baseUrl

Value

https://library-api.postmanlab:

Scope

Collection: Postman Library

Set variable

We will learn more about variables and scopes in the upcoming lesson, at this time we are creating a variable to make our life easier by not typing the long URL again and again!

Now that the variable is set, you can access the value anywhere in your collection by typing **{{baseUrl}}**

Hover over **{{baseUrl}}**. You will see its current value is set to **https://library-api.postmanlabs.com**

Please **save and send the request**; it will work exactly like before! You should get a status **200 OK** response with a list of books.

Where are my variables?

You can find Collection variables in your collection.

Click on your collection, then the **Variables** tab. Here you can view and edit your variables.

Home

Workspaces

API Network

Reports

Explore

Search Postman

Invite

Upgrade

Postman API Fundamentals Stud...

New

Import

GET get fiction boi

GET get book by id

POST add a book

Postman Libr

No Environment

Collections

Postman Library API v2

GET get books

GET get fiction books

GET get book by id

POST add a book

APIs

Environments

Mock Servers

Monitors

Flows

History

Postman Library API v2

Authorization

Pre-request Script

Tests

Variables

These variables are specific to this collection and its requests. [Learn more about collection variables.](#)

VARIABLE

INITIAL VALUE

CURRENT VALUE

Persist All

Reset All

baseUrl

https://library-api.postm...

https://library-api.postmanlabs.com

Add a new variable

Use variables to reuse values and protect sensitive data

Store sensitive data in variable type secret to keep its values masked on the screen. [Learn more about variable type](#)

Work with the current value of a variable to prevent sharing sensitive values with your team. [Learn more about variable values](#)

Note that there are two columns:

Initial Value - the value initially set when someone forks or imports your collection. Note that if you share your collection with others, they will see this value, so don't put any secrets here!

Current Value - Postman always resolves the variable to this value. This is local to your Postman account, and not public. It is good to keep secrets like API Keys ONLY in this column and not include them in the Initial Value column.