# ✓ ■ Types of APIs

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## Introducing Postman

**⊘ ⊘** Quiz #1: What Are APIs?

The API First World

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### Your First API Request

- Task: Create a collection

Task: Create a workspace

- Task: Get books from the Library API
- Request-Response pattern
- Quiz #3: Your First API Request

# Request Parameters

- Variables in PostmanQuery parameters
- Task: Search books by genre
- Task: Multiple query
- parameters

Path Variable

- Task: Get a book by id
- Quiz #4: Query vs. path

## Sending data with POST

parameters

- Task: Add a book
- Task: Add an authorization header
- Task: Use Postman Auth instead!
- Quiz #5: Sending Data With Postman

Introduction to variables and

### 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}}

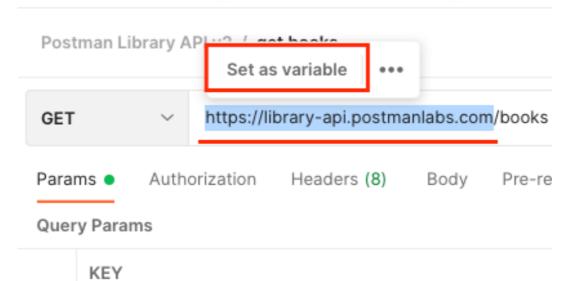
### Set the "baseUrl" variable

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.

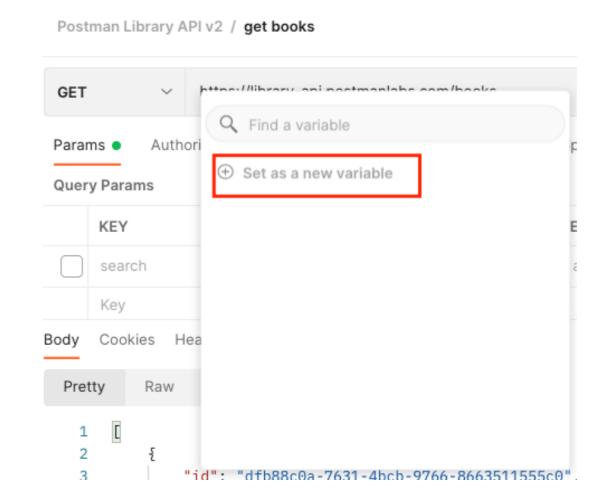
Click "Set as variable" to save the base URL to a variable.



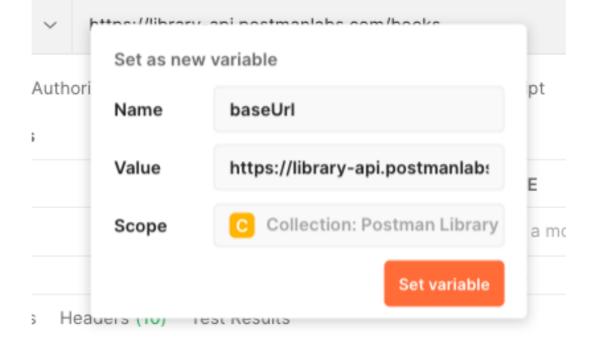
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3. Click "Set as a new variable".

Key



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

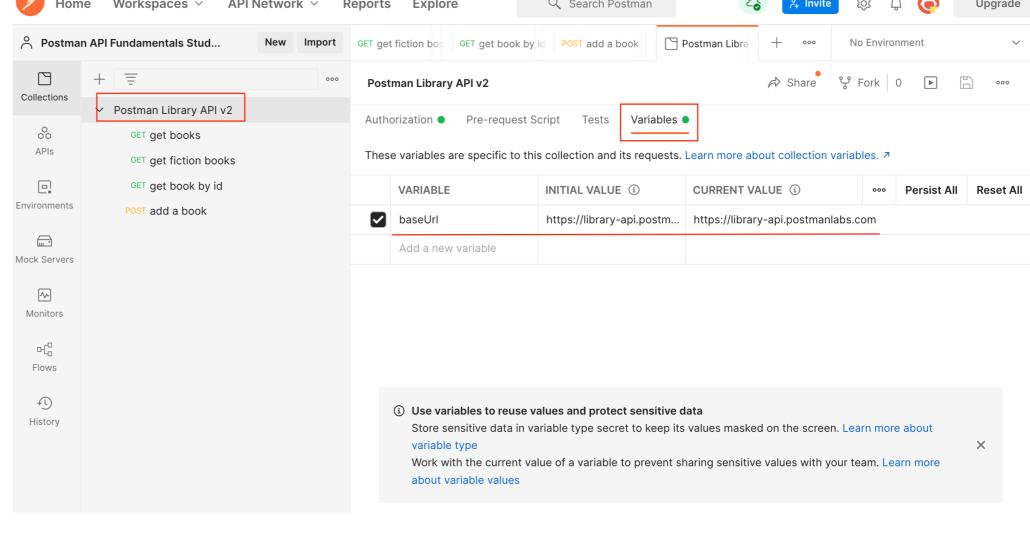
Hover over {{baseUrl}}. You will see its current value is set to <a href="https://library-api.postmanlabs.com">https://library-api.postmanlabs.com</a>

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.



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 <u>don't put any secrets here!</u>

**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.