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API stands for Application Programming Interface. Like GUIs allow users to interact with code, an API is when code interacts with code. The three elements of an API are:

1. Access – the user must have access to request data or service
2. Request- what data or service the user is requesting
   1. Methods – questions user asks
   2. Parameters – additional details
3. Response – data or service in answer to your request

Pokemon Go interacting with Google Maps is an example. An end user is in a certain location. Pokemon Go can access this location via GPS on the phone. Pokemon Go has access to request data from Google Maps. It asks for the map, providing the details of the GPS coordinates. The response is the map. This way, the Pokemon Go developers did not need to code the maps of the entire world. Examples of data we might collect from an API for analysis in Python are from Yahoo Finance (for stock prices and company ratios), Spotify (for music genres), or Reddit (for text comments from specific users). APIs are useful when we want data from the web that is changing, or when we do not want to waste time recreating what already exists (e.g. Google Maps or Spotify song genres).

<https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2016/11/an-introduction-to-apis-application-programming-interfaces-5-apis-a-data-scientist-must-know/>

<https://www.dataquest.io/m/52-working-with-apis/>