

What is an API?

API stands for **Application Programming Interface**.

Simple Explanation:

An API is like a waiter in a restaurant:

- You (the user) ask the waiter (API) for food (data).
- The waiter takes your request to the kitchen (server).
- The kitchen prepares the food (data).
- The waiter returns with the food (response).

You don't need to know how the kitchen works — the waiter (API) handles that. Similarly, in programming, you use an API to communicate with another service without knowing how it works internally.

Why Do We Use APIs?

We use APIs to:

- Get or send data to/from a server
 - Use features from another application (like Google Maps, YouTube, Weather)
 - Communicate between different systems or software
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General Example of Using an API

Imagine you are building a travel booking site. When a user selects a city and dates, your site:

1. Uses a **hotel booking API** to fetch available hotels.
2. Uses a **flight API** to get available flights.
3. Uses a **weather API** to show the weather forecast.

You don't store hotel or flight data — instead, your app communicates with these APIs to get the needed data and show it to users.

How to Use APIs in JavaScript?

In JavaScript, the most common way to use APIs is with the built-in `fetch` method.

Basic Syntax:

```
fetch(url)
  .then(response => response.json())
  .then(data => {
    // use the data
  })
  .catch(error => {
```

✓ Simple Example: Get Users from Public API

Code:

```
fetch("https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/users")
  .then(response => response.json())
  .then(data => {
    console.log("User List:", data);
  })
  .catch(error => {
```

What it Does:

- Sends a request to a free API that returns dummy users.
- Converts the response to readable JSON.
- Logs the user data.
- Handles any errors.

✓ Methods Used with API in JavaScript

1. ``

Used to make API requests.

```
fetch("https://api.example.com/data")
```

2. ``

Runs when the request is successful.

```
.then(response => response.json())  
.then(data => console.log(data))
```

3. ``

Runs when there is an error in the request.

```
.catch(error => console.log("Error:", error))
```

4. HTTP Methods Used with ``

Method	Use	Example Purpose
GET	Get data	View user list
POST	Send data	Add a new user
PUT	Update full data	Replace user info
PATCH	Update part	Update just the name
DELETE	Remove data	Delete a user

✓ POST Example: Send Data to an API

```
fetch("https://api.example.com/posts"  
  , { method: "POST",  
    headers: {  
      "Content-Type": "application/json"  
    },  
    body:  
      JSON.stringify({  
        title: "Hello",  
        body: "This is a post.",  
        userId: 1
```

Summary Table

Term	Meaning
API	Connects your code to other services/data
fetch()	Sends a request to the API
.then()	Runs after successful response
.catch()	Runs if there is an error
